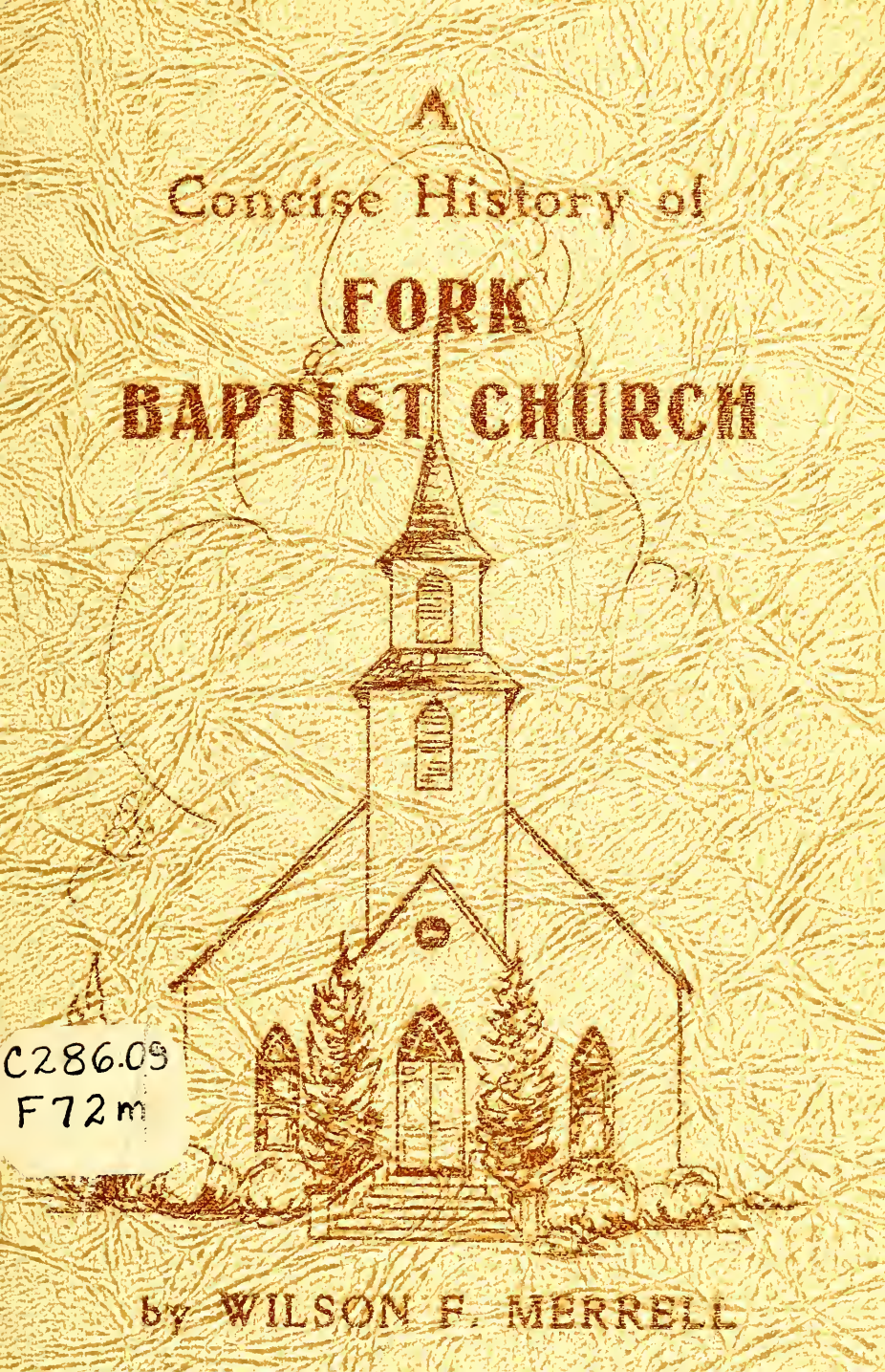
A Concise History of FORK BAPTIST CHURCH



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by WILSON F. MERRELL

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A Concise History of FORK BAPTIST CHURCH

by WILSON F. MERRELL

— *Printed by* —

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PREFACE

Fork Baptist Church has had a long and illustrious history since her organization sometime between May 4th and August 24, 1793. The purpose of the publishing of this book is to help us appreciate our debt to the Founders of our Faith, and to stimulate greater interest and zeal by those who now labor on behalf of the Church.

The records state that during the August Church conference of 1929, a committee was appointed to see Mr. Wilson Merrell in ragard to the writing of a history of the Fork Baptist Church. At the September conference they reported that they had asked Brother Merrell to undertake the task. They reported that he had consented to write the history "As soon as he could find time to do the work." Brother Merrell accomplished this task even though at times the records were not complete, and the information difficult to find. The history was completed a short time before his death on June 21, 1931, but after many years, when no effort was made to publish it in book form, the history was believed to have been lost.

In recent years interest in the history of Fork Baptist Church has been revived, due largely to Brother P. M. Johnson, a deacon, Sunday School Teacher and Training Union Director of the Church. Mr. Johnson is the husband of Mr. Merrell's granddaughter, Wyona Merrell Johnson, who is at this time Clerk of Fork Baptist Church. After months of extensive search, Mr. Johnson found a type written copy of the Merrell Manuscript. Rev. C. H. Utley, a former Pastor, typed this copy from the original hand-written copy. It was found among his papers and books which were in the custody of his wife Mrs. Louise Eaton Utley. This type written copy contained no identification that it was the one written

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by Mr. Merrell. It was, in the opinion of Mrs. Utley and the Merrell Family, a copy of the original manuscript. Mr. Johnson then started a search for positive identification. In January 1957 this identification was found in the home of Mr. Robert Lee Seaford. This was in the form of an Outline of the History of Fork Baptist Church written by Mr. Utley in which he identified the copy typed by him as being that written by Mr. Merrell.

At the regular church conference on February 17, 1957, the Church elected Brother Johnson as the first Church Historian. At the church conference on March 17, 1957, the Church instructed him to publish the Merrell History, in book form. He has traveled extensively, and spent much of his own time and money to make this publication possible. We are deeply grateful to him for his interest in making available to all friends, former members and present members this "A CONCISE HISTORY OF FORK BAPTIST CHURCH." We are indebted to him and all who have helped compile this volume. Many hope that he will continue to gather historical materials so that a companion volume of our history can be published in the near future.

March 25, 1957

REV. A. M. KISER, *Pastor*

A picture of Mr. Merrell taken during the period that he was clerk of the South Yadkin Baptist Association.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR WILSON F. MERRELL

In March 1942 while writing sketches of all the churches in Davie County, under the Auspices of the Federal Government, Rev. Chas. H. Utley, a former Pastor of Fork Baptist Church wrote the following tribute to Professor Wilson F. Merrell:

"Wilson F. Merrell was born November 29, 1850 and died June 21, 1931. He was the son of Benjamin S. Merrell and Elizabeth Leach Merrell. He married Sarah VanEaton. To this union were born the following children: Oscar, Mollie, May, George, Beulah, Clara, Charlie and Anna.

"He was only ten years old at the outbreak of the Civil War. In that day the schools were scarce and poor; however, Mr. Merrell managed to get enough education to begin teaching when 18 years of age. This was only three years after the close of the Civil War. For 62 years thereafter he taught school in Davie County. For many years he was Principal of the Fork Academy.

"In July 1898, Professor J. T. Alderman wrote in the *Baptist Historical Papers* the following regarding an ancestor of Mr. Merrell: 'Captain Benjamin Merrell, the martyr of Alamance, was a deacon of the Jersey church. Had he and his drilled command reached the field of Alamance in time for the fight the result might have been otherwise; and instead of Morgan Edwards' weak and false apology, the matter would have stood as a test of patriotism and courage for our ancient brethren." Professor Alderman further stated that at that time, a father and son, B. S. Merrell and Wilson Merrell were Deacons in the Fork Baptist Church and that G. L. Merrell, a brother of Wilson Merrell was at that time preaching the gospel on those consecrated

grounds around Alamance, where the great, great grandfather's blood fertilized the soil of North Carolina for independence and the Revolution.

"In 1869 when the Sunday School was first established at Fork Baptist Church, Benjamin S. Merrell, his father, was chosen as the first superintendent. The home life of this boy, Wilson F. Merrell, must have been a nursery of good citizenship. The first ancestor known, his great, great grandfather, a pioneer in Davidson County, was a man of sterling worth, a Baptist Deacon, the Captain of a Company—pioneers for independence and the rights of citizenship. Here are five links in a chain of family genealogy, the character of the first we can safely infer from the trust of his fellowmen and the positions he held; he died a martyr's death, but not in vain. He left an honored name and a rich heritage to his descendents.

"To the people of Fork, I can only say, you knew Wilson Merrell even better than I. You were his neighbors. Many of you he taught during the week, and led you in Church on Sunday. Always wherever he served, he did it without egotism or ostentation. In school, church life and neighborhood, Mr. Wilson Merrell set a good example. Everywhere he exemplified fine traits of character. He was a man of fine common sense and good judgment. His opinions were only expressed after mature deliberation. No man heard him criticize his neighbors, who not only highly respected him, but looked to him for wise counsel, which nature, education and experience qualified him to give. Nature favored him with a strong robust body and constitution. This certainly was a part of his inheritance and he retained it to the last by living a clean life. No immoral habits impaired his physical vigor. His mind cherished only

high ideals. He knew thoroughly the subjects he taught, and his teaching was therefore thorough. As a disciplinarian in the school room, his discipline was gentle, but firm. To the last he continued to study and inform himself. To him life was a school and he profited by the lessons learned therefrom.

"As his pastor, I knew Mr. Merrell rather intimately. He left in my memory an indellible impresson of his personality, his manner of life and thoughts. He was the only head of the family that I ever knew who handed me the Bible and requested me to read and lead in prayer before we ate.

"He was probably better known as an educator, however, throughout his life he served well in other fields of endeavor. For forty years he was Superintendent of the Sunday School at Fork Baptist Church. For 30 or more years a Deacon and Church Clerk. In 1873, when the South Yadkin Baptist Association was organized, he was a delegate from Fork and he helped in the organization of such association. For 15 years he was Clerk of the Association. Always his energies were employed in useful service. Through all his years from early manhood, he was truly a servant of the people. If he could hear these lines, sentences and paragraphs, perhaps he would feel the highest compliment paid him is this: 'He was the servant of the People.' Yes, a good and faithful servant."

March, 1942 Rev. Chas. H. Utley

CHAPTER I—1774 to 1793

Preliminary Statement

The record of Fork Baptist Church from its organization up to the time of the split in this church over the question of Missions in 1833 were carried off by the former clerk, William Thompson, who declared that "they should never see the book again" and all efforts to find and regain these records have proved futile.

But from the contemporaneous Records of Dutchman Creek Baptist Church, (now extinct), Jersey Baptist Church, Eatons Baptist Church, Bear Creek Baptist Church, Abbotts Creek Baptist Church, and the manuscript records of the Old Yadkin Association from 1786 to 1809 (all of which are still well preserved in the original) we are able to get the following facts of the early History of Fork Baptist Church:

In the records of Dutchman Creek Baptist Church for July 1, 1774 is the following entry: Wm Meglamre is appointed to preach at "Fork Meeting House" on October 3, 1774. This record established that there was preaching at Fork prior to its organization in the year of 1793.

The Yadkin Association met at Eatons August 24-25-26, 1793. Rev. John Gano, Moderator and Stephen Wood, Clerk. The records of the Association of that date show this: "The petition from 'Fork Church,' newly constituted, praying for admission if found orthodox, was read and the church received." Fork sent as delegates to this session of the Association, Rev. Benjamin Buckner, The Pastor, and Elijah Owing. This shows Fork was organized between May and August, 1793.

Rev. John Ashpland, who was collecting material for a Baptist Registry, was present at the same session of the Association. In his "Registry," published in 1794, he says Fork had 45 members.

Benedict, who traveled through this country in 1812 collecting material for a History of American Baptists,

probably saw the original Records of Fork Church. He says, "Fork Church was organized in 1793, Benjamin Buckner, Pastor, and John Potts, licentiate."

In 1794, the Church was not represented in the Association. In 1795, Benjamin Buckner and Richard Pack were the delegates. In 1796 Buckner and Risdon Fisher represented the church. In 1797, Buckner. On July 21, 1798, Eatons sent to Fork for help to ordain a deacon.

The Yadkin Association met at Fork September 22, 1798. Fourteen Churches were represented. On Sunday, William Megreos, Geo. Pope and William Dodson preached. By a letter dated April 20, 1799, Fork petitioned Eatons for help to ordain a deacon.

In 1799, Benjamin Caudle represented the church in the Association, which met at Abbotts Creek. In 1800 the Association met at Eatons. Buckner and James Tatum were the delegates from Fork. In 1802 the Association met at Jersey. Buckner and B. Caudle were delegates from Fork. In 1803 John Baxter and Basil Owens were delegates. In 1804 Buckner, Peter Potts, Joseph Chaffin and Bassil Owens were the delegates. January 5, 1805, Bear Creek sent to Fork for help. B. Caudle and Peter Potts were delegates this year. During the next year 1806, Bear Creek and Eatons sent to Fork for help, also in 1807.

On the first Sunday in October, 1809, the Association met at Fork. Thirteen Churches were represented. Introductory sermon by Wm Dodson, Eph. 2:8. Ministers present: Dodson, Charles Pope, R. Cunningham, John Wiseman, Douglas and Angel. March 6, 1813 Fork sent to Bear Creek for help to ordain a deacon. They meet a Zadoc Jarvis' for the ordination.

March 15, 1815, Eatons applied to Fork for help to settle a difficulty between Brumly Coker and Ebenezer Frost. Buckner and Caudle were sent.

This is the last mention of Rev. Benjamin Buckner. He left the county and moved to Georgia in 1815.

CHAPTER II—1815 to 1840

Eld. Joseph Pickler's Pastorate

Eld. Joseph Pickler succeeded Eld. Buckner as Pastor at Fork Baptist Church.

September 15, 1815 is the first authentic date showing that Eld. Pickler was Pastor.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, there was a large element of uninformed members in the Baptist Churches whose ideas were contracted and sadly warped on the subject of missions. This was no new doctrine in Baptist Churches, but in 1830 the churches became greatly agitated on the great question of missions.

During the years 1831 and 1832 there had been much wrangling among the members of Fork Church on the subject of missions. When the North Carolina Baptist State Convention met in 1832, Mr. Pickler attended it in order that he might inform himself and satisfy his own mind upon the great question that was exciting the churches. When he returned, he threw his whole soul into the mission work and preached with unwanted liberty.

From the beginning of 1833 until August of that year, the lines were more clearly drawn between the two factions. About one-third of the members of Fork Church led by one Thomas Phillips, an excluded member of one of the churches of the Liberty Association, became so violent and disorderly that it was a frightful day in conference. Bandying and epithets and malignant accusations echoed through the house dedicated to the service of God. The minority, whose stingy contracted souls could not check the light of duty as it beamed from the Savior's last command, became so violent and disorderly that they tore themselves away from the conference and they were of necessity cut off as disorderly members.

Among these was Wm Thompson, the Clerk, who

took with him the original church register and refused to let the church have it. Fork Church reported these things to the Yadkin Association which met at Bear Creek Baptist Church in 1833. The Association endorsed their action and counseled them, that if Thompson still refused to give up the church register, to procure another book and elect another clerk.

They waited until June 6, 1834 for the return of the original church register, but in vain.

They then procured another book and elected Elisha Nunally as Clerk. They adopted a Church Covenant, under which the following names are written. Six males and twenty-nine females. Males names: Joseph Pickler, Elish Nunally, Elijah Baxter, William Foster, Tilmon Foster, and Wiley Coats. Female names: Sarah Garwood, Sarah Foster, Nancy Pack, Martha Pickler, Elizabeth Nunally, Nancy Cline, Sarah Foster, Susanah Robbards, Mary Wyatt, Mary Jordan, Hannah Baxter, Leah Tatum, A. Owens, Sarah Howard, Nancy Deadmon, Hannah Thompson, Catherine Robbards, Elizabeth Foster, Elizabeth Smith, Narcis Womack, Lucy (Queen) Wyatt, Mary Queen, Fanny Foster, Rebecca Foster, Charlotte Harris, Mary McDaniel, Mary Howelton, Elizabeth Glasscock, and Nancy (Foster) Gabard.

At the meeting on August 16, 1834, Wm H. Hamner, Susanah Hamner and Matheny Thompson were received by experience and baptism. These were the first members to join after the split in the church.

During 1835, an arm of the church was established at Piney Meeting House. The Pastor preaching there on the same day services were held at Fork Church. This arm was granted the privilege to be constituted into a church at the August meeting 1836, and October 21-22-23, was set as the time, but for lack of a presbytery, the ten members of Fork Church did not take their letters for the Constitution of Piney Baptist Church until May 1837. At their January meeting 1836 the church chose William H. Hamner as Deacon and Tilmon Foster as church clerk. Pastors Pickler and Eld. Roby

ordained W. H. Hamner a deacon, at the February meeting and clerk Nunally passed the church record to Bro. Tilmon Foster. Communion services were held at the May meeting. At the August meeting 1836, the church appointed Breth. Pickler, Nunnally, and Barnes delegates to the Association. The Church also endorses the "Section Meeting" and the clerk was instructed to state the fact in the Associational letter.

At their July meeting 1837, the church chose Tilmon Foster and Wm H. Hamner as Trustees of Fork Meeting House. At the August meeting Breth. Pickler, Hamner and T. Foster were selected as delegates to the Yadkin Association which met at Cross Roads Church in 1839. From this meeting up until the time of his death on May 24, 1840, Pastor Pickler was so afflicted that he was absent from most of the meetings but little business was transacted.

Summary

Eld. Joseph Pickler served Fork Church as Pastor from Sept. 1815 to May 24, 1840. During these 25 years of faithful service he was seldom absent from his appointments and there was slow but continuous growth in the work of the church. He was Pastor at Fork at the time of the split over Missions. He attended the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in 1832 to satisfy his own mind on the question. When he returned, he threw his whole soul into the advocacy of missions and preached with unwonted liberty; which culminated in the exclusion of about one-third of the members and loss of the church's records for the first 40 years of her life. The former clerk, being one of the excluded members, carried the records away and declared the church should never see them again.

The Church reported these matters to the Association in 1833, and were counseled to procure another book and enroll the remaining members thereon. At their June meeting 1834, they adopted a church covenant and enrolled the names of six male and twenty-nine female members.

The outstanding work during this pastorate was the establishing of an arm at Piney Meeting House in 1835 and the Constitution of a church there in 1837.

Legend: Eld. Pickler was a typical Dutchman, low and corpulent and of a dark complexion. Like many others of his day, he was not a total abstainer from strong drink, but with this exception he was universally respected in his day.

CHAPTER III

Eld. Barton Roby's Pastorate

After the death of Eld. Pickler on May 24, 1840, the church at the June meeting called Eld. Peter Owen as Pastor, but he could not serve. At the July meeting they called Eld. Barton Roby to the care of the church and he accepted to begin at their October meeting. He was present and preached and held communion at the time promised.

Deacon Hamner was licensed to preach at some past conference but the church clerk failed to make a record of the fact. At the February meeting 1841, the neglect was made known and a record of the church's former action was recorded. For some reason, not stated, Elder Roby's services as Pastor ended with this meeting.

Summary

Elder Barton Roby served Fork Church as Pastor from October 1840 to February 1841. During the five months one member was received and two dismissed by letter. The total membership is now forty-two.

CHAPTER IV

Elder Wm. H. Hamner's Pastorate

Fork Baptist Church, at the March meeting 1841, called Eld. Wm. H. Hamner as pastor. He is present and accepts.

The conference then chose Wm. Gabard as a deacon and invited Elders Angel, Phifer, and Owen to attend at their May meeting and ordain Brother Hamner to the full work of a Gospel Minister and Brother Gabard as a deacon. These ministers failed to attend. The church then invited Elders Peter Owen and Barton Roby to attend a meeting on the 30th day of June for the purpose of ordaining these brethren. Elders Owen and Roby attended and ordained Bro. Wm. H. Hamner to the full work of the Ministry and Bro. Gabard as a deacon on June 30, 1841.

At the July meeting the church calls Eld. Hamner, he being now ordained to the full pastoral care of the church.

Bro. Foster, the clerk, having moved to Lexington, requests the pastor to take charge of the Record and keep its further orders. At the April meeting 1842 Elds. Windsor and Thompson preach and then the church excluded one member.

At the August meeting 1842 Hamner and Gabard were chosen delegates to the Yadkin Association, which met with Swaim's Church that year. The church calls Eld. W. H. Hamner as pastor for the ensuing year and he accepts the call. No preaching at December meeting 1842 on Saturday on account of the funeral of Reson Pack. Sermon on Sunday by Pastor.

From this meeting to the call for Eld. Windsor as pastor at the December meeting 1843 there is no unusual entry in the record.

Summary

Eld. Hamner served as pastor from March 1841 to December 1843 and there is now forty-three members.

Eld. Windsor was present at the April and May meetings, but seems to not have accepted the pastorate. There is no record from June to October 1844.

CHAPTER V

Elder William Turner's Pastorate

At the October meeting 1844 the church calls Eld. William Turner as pastor. He does not accept. At their next meeting they extend a call to Eld. Phifer. He cannot accept. At their March meeting 1845 they again extend a call to Eld. Wm. Turner. He is present and accepts. James Foster and William Gabard are delegates to the Association this year.

E. W. Tatum and Samuel O. Tatum, the father of Rev. Frank Tatum, who is now our missionary in China, were received and baptized at the October meeting 1845.

At the November meeting of this year Bro. S. O. Tatum is appointed to collect a fund to aid in the support of Rev. Mark May, the itinerant minister of this Association.

John F. Redwine is received and baptised at meeting in January 1846, and the annual call given to Pastor Turner, and he accepts. At the next meeting James Foster is chosen as a deacon and E. W. Tatum is elected clerk. Brother Foster feels incompetent and asks the church to excuse him. He is excused.

Camp meeting held October 1846, eight were received and five were baptised on Wednesday morning. Among them, Calton W. Bessent, who was received at September meeting. Elder Turner is called as pastor of the church for next year at the December meeting 1846. He accepts. Bro. C. W. Bessent was licensed to preach at May meeting 1847. At the next meeting Breth. S. O. Tatum and Tilmon Foster are chosen as deacons. Bro. Foster declined to serve. Bro. Tatum accepts and is ordained on Sabbath morning of the August meeting by Elders Turner and A. Williams. Delegates to the Association: T. Foster, Gabard, John F. Redwine, and S. O. Tatum.

At the December meeting 1847 Eld. Turner is again given a call and accepts and serves until end of the

year 1848. He declines to serve further as pastor, but is present at the February, March, and April meetings as the church is still without a pastor.

C. W. Bessent preaches at the May meeting and acts as moderator. The church at this meeting elects Bro. Conrad Hendrix to the office of deacon, and Elds. Turner, Williams, and May are asked to attend on 2nd Sabbath in June to ordain him. On the 3rd Sabbath in June to ordain him. On the 3rd Sabbath in May Eld. J. Roberson baptises the awaiting candidates. For some reason the presbytery did not attend. Eld. Jacks and Roby are then called and ordain Bro. Conrad Hendrix as a deacon on Friday, August 24, 1849.

Elder Amos Weaver preaches at the September meeting and Eld. Wm. Turner is invited to attend at the next meeting and administer the Lord's Supper.

CHAPTER VI

Elder Thomas Miller and Elder Richard Jacks Pastorates

Eld. Thomas Miller preaches at the October meeting 1849. At this conference the church votes to establish a graveyard at Fork Meeting House. Eld. Thos. Miller is then called as Pastor and he accepts the call. The 2nd Saturday in December is set apart as a day of fasting, Bro. Miller to make an appropriate address on the occasion. Communion is observed on this Sabbath. Eld. J. Pritchard preaches at the May meeting 1850. Pastor Miller is absent at July meeting and Elder Pritchard preaches at the August service. C. W. Bessent, J. Merrell, E. W. Tatum, and C. Hendrix are appointed delegates to the Association, also the church names Friday before the second Lord's day in November as the day on which to begin their camp meeting. Bro. E. W. Tatum to secure ministerial aid. Elder Miller, the Pastor, is present at the September meeting. A collection is taken for the Convention and C. W. Bessent is appointed a delegate to the Baptist State Convention.

January Meeting 1851.

Eld. C. W. Bassent preaches and the conference passes a by-law requiring the male members to render an excuse if absent for two consecutive meeting and females for three successive meetings, and that four successive absences by any member shall bring such member under the censure and discipline of the church. This is the first recorded step taken to prevent the violation of the church covenant. They also petition the Board of the Missionary Society, asking for the services of Eld. Richard Jacks as Pastor of this church during his missionary term. No preaching in February, March or April. At the May meeting Elds. R. Jacks and Eld. West are present. Eld. West preaches and Jacks acts as moderator. There is no record in regard to Eld. Jacks becoming pastor, but he seems to serve as such for the year. At the June meeting Brother C. W. Bes-

sent, Jonathan Merrell, and E. W. Tatum are appointed as a committee to examine the church book and make a report at next meeting of the church in reference to the Constitution, Articles of Faith and Church Covenant. A motion also prevails requiring that the minutes be read and corrected before the close of each conference.

Eld. R. Jacks preaches at the July meeting and then the committee appointed to search the Records of the church reported that they find no record of the Constitution of the Church or Articles of Faith, and but a defective covenant; and recommended that a committee be appointed to draft Articles of Faith and Covenant and revise the roll of membership. The committee is discharged and the report is laid on the table. The conference seems not to be satisfied and appointed brethren S. A. Daniel and E. W. Tatum to make further search of the old church record, if to be found, and report at the next conference to be held on Saturday before the third Sabbath in August. At the conference on August 16, 1851, Elders R. Jacks and E. West preach. The committee appointed to search for the old Constitution and Articles of Faith report that they had not been able to find either a Constitution or Articles of Faith. Based upon this report, the conference appointed Breth. J. H. Davis, Jas. Foster, and E. W. Tatum to draft Articles of Faith and Covenant and present the same at the next meeting. The camp meeting was held during this month.

At a called meeting held on August 23, 1851, the committee appointed to draft Articles of Faith and Church Covenant presented a copy of Articles of Faith and Church Covenant published in the "Biblical Recorder" in July, 1851. The conference adopts both the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant and requests the ministers present at the camp meeting to constitute them into a missionary Baptist Church.

Constitution

We, the undersigned presbytery, after mature examination of the church at Fork Meeting House, constitute them a missionary Baptist Church upon the following

Articles of Faith (and) Covenant given under our hands:

August 23, 1851. Elders R. Jacks, Thos. Miller and J. B. Solomon.

The conference then appointed Brethren E. W. Tatum, J. H. Davis, C. Hendrix, and C. W. Bessent as delegates to the Association.

By prevailing motion Brethren C. W. Bessent, S. A. Daniel and Conrad Hendrix were appointed to prepare rules or by-laws by which, if adopted, this church is to be governed.

Eld. Jacks was not present at the September meeting. Services by Elder E. West. The committee to draft rules of decorum report and is discharged. The rules were read one at a time and passed and then adopted as a whole. Then the church elected Bro. J. H. Davis as her first Treasurer and then Elder Richard Jacks is called to serve the church as pastor for the ensuing year. At the October meeting pastor Jacks is present and preaches and then the by-laws and resolutions adopted at the last conference are by motion reconsidered and by vote of the conference is continued to the January meeting 1852. Bro. Davis resigned as Treasurer of the church. Pastor preached at next meeting. There was no meeting in January. Eld. C. W. Bessent preached at the February meeting. The adoption or rejection of the by-laws is deferred until next meeting. Brother Benjamin S. Merrell was received from Jersey Baptist Church by letter at this meeting. The conference then asks Elders R. Jacks, Thos. Miller, Wm. Turner, A. Roby, and Azariah Williams to serve as a presbytery to ordain Bro. C. W. Bassent to the ministry on Saturday before the second Sunday in April 1852. The clerk is to invite them.

The by-laws and resolutions are considered and rejected at March meeting. The clerk is then instructed to read the church Covenant at each meeting unless otherwise instructed.

At the April meeting 1852 Brother C. W. Bessent is ordained to the ministry by Elders Richard Jacks, Thos. Miller and Azariah Williams acting as a presbytery. Eld. Jacks delivered the charge. Then the time of meeting was changed from the second to the third Sabbath and Saturday before. Elizabeth Merrell was then received by experience at this meeting and baptised at next meeting by Eld. R. Jacks. Communion was held at this meeting.

Pastor Jacks was present at the June meeting but absent at the next meeting. Conference was convened and the time for holding the camp meeting is set for Friday evening before the third Sabbath in September. No meeting in August. Elder A. Weaver preaches at next meeting and the conference appointed Brethren Jonathan Merrell, S. O. Tatum, Benjamin Merrell and E. W. Tatum delegates to the Association. Bro. C. W. Bassent is instructed to write to our pastor and ascertain why he is absent so long.

The camp meeting conference was convened on September 23, 1852 and Brother S. A. Daniel was granted license to exhort and preach wherever his lot may be cast. Eld. R. Jacks resigned as pastor of this church at the October meeting and his resignation was accepted.

The conference then voted for a pastor, the ballot not being unanimous. They requested Bro. C. W. Bessent to serve as supply for an indefinite time.

November meeting 1852. Eld. Bessent preaches. There was no meeting in December. Elder Bessent preached at the January meeting 1853. There was no meeting in February. Elder Bassent conducted divine services in March. No April meeting.

CHAPTER VII

Elder C. W. Bessent Pastorate

At the May 1853 meeting, Eld. S. Ivey preached. Elder Bessent acted as moderator. The conference then elected Elder C. W. Bessent as pastor. He was present and accepted the call. Brother J. H. Davis is granted the privilege to hold prayer meetings and the liberty to exhort and is requested to prepare and preach a sermon before this church. On prevailing motion, the door of the church is to be opened for the reception of members only on motion. Conference then appointed a committee to examine the roll and report deliquents. Brother Bessent and Tatum to solicit ministerial aid for our camp meeting. At the August meeting they selected Brethren E. W. Tatum, Benjamin Merrell and Conrad Hendrix to be delegates to the Association. They then agree to raise $10.00 for the support of the Missionary laboring in this Association and pledge $20.00 for missionary purposes next year. The next meeting is ordered held on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September in connection with the camp meeting. Elder Terrell and Bessent hold the service at the September meeting. This conference received the pledge of $20.00 and promise to raise what they can for the support of Eld. S. Ivey, the Associational Missionary.

Eld. S. A. Daniel preaches at October meeting 1853, and at the November conference they exclude three members for non-attendance and refusing to hear the church.

There was no meeting in December. At the January conference 1854, Bro. J. H. Davis is licensed to preach wherever his lot may be cast. No conference in February. Eld. Bessent held divine service in March. No services April on account of rain. In May services were held by S. A. Daniel. Bessent holds June service. No business in July or August. Elder Bessent preached in September. J. H. Davis in October and S. A. Daniel in December. At this conference the church calls Eld. Bessent to the care of the church for the following year.

He is present at the January conference and accepts the pastorate for the year 1855. Eld. R. Jacks is present at the February meeting and preaches. Bro. B. S. Merrell is then elected as a deacon, and is ordained on Sabbath by Eld. R. Jacks and Eld. C. W. Bessent. Eld. Jacks preached ordination sermon. There was no meeting in March on account of rain. Pastor Bessent is present at the April and May meetings. The arm at Turrentine School house is revived. Elder Jack is present at the August meeting and the conference appoints E. W. Tatum, C. W. Bessent, S. A. Daniel, and John Banks delegates to the Association and pledges $10.00 for the colportage work in the Association. The arm at Turrentine was called in at September meeting 1855. S. A. Daniel preached at October meeting and two are received for baptism. Eld. C. W. Bessent is again unanimously chosen pastor for 1856 at the December meeting. No January conference. No business at February, March, April, or May conferences.

At the June meeting they decided not to have a camp meeting or protracted one this year. By request the pastor reads the Articles of Faith and Covenant and comments on the same. August meeting, J. H. Davis preaches. The conference then requests Elds. Wm. Turner, Griffith, Azariah Williams and pastor to act as a presbytery to examine and ordain Bro. Davis on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October. Breth. C. W. Bessent, S. O. Tatum, Conrad Hendrix and E. W. Tatum are appointed delegates to the Association. The church raises $10.00 for the object of the convention. Pastor preaches at September and October meetings. At the October conference Bro. J. H. Davis withdrew his application for ordination. At the October meeting the conference balloted for pastor. Elder Bessent was unanimously elected. There was no meeting in December. Elder Bessent preaches in January 1857. The door of the church by vote is to be opened at the beginning of each conference and remain open to its close. Five dollars is raised for the benefit of Mary Sitton who is sick in the vicinity. At February meeting the pastor is present and the Conference appoints Breth. S. A. Daniel

and E. W. Tatum a committee to draft by-laws for the government of this church, at the March meeting. B. S. Merrell was appointed to secure an additional lot to the graveyard and he and C. Hendrix are appointed to ascertain the cost of an iron gate for the graveyard. At next meeting Breth. B. S. Merrell and Conrad Hendrix were appointed to raise funds to purchase a Bible and Hymn Book for the use of the church. Services by J. H. Davis and Pastor at the May meeting 1857. The committee to prepare by-laws report and the rules are recorded on a preceding page of the Church Record Book. Bro. B. S. Merrell reported as to the cost of iron gate and Bro. E. W. Tatum is asked to purchase the iron and present the bill to the conference. Services by Pastor at the next meeting and $10.00 was raised to pay pledge to colportage.

At July meeting 1857 the annual camp meeting was discontinued, and those having old tents on the grounds are asked to remove them. The preacher's tent was placed in the hands of the Trustees to dispose of. The motion asking Breth. Merrell and Hendrix to procure funds and purchase Bible was reconsidered. August 1857 an arm is set off at Plesant Grove School House, with right to choose Pastor, receive and baptise members of arm. S. A. Daniel, Horatio Motley, E. W. Tatum, Nancy Motley, Elizabeth Motley, Nancy F. Motley, Mary Motley, Susan Daniel, Jane Daniel, and others that may see proper.

Services by Pastor at October and November meetings. At last meeting, time for holding monthly meetings was changed from 3rd Sabbath to 1st Sabbath and on Saturday before. Pastor holds service at January, February, and March meeting 1858 and Bro. J. F. Redwine preaches at April service and Pastor present at May. At the June meeting 1858, the Brethren discuss the propriety of erecting a new house of worship. At the July meeting Brethren C. W. Bessent, B. S. Merrell and T. Foster are requested to prepare models and present them at the next meeting. At the August meeting models were presented and the committe discharged. Pastor Bessent is then instructed to spend five days at

a salary of one dollar per day and circulate a subscription list and see what amount can be raised toward building a new church house. The subscription to be paid one half when the work begins and the other half when the job is done. Brethren S. O. Tatum, C. W. Bessent, John Redwine, and E. W. Tatum are appointed delegates to represent the church in the Yadkin Association.

The protracted meeting is to commence on Thursday before the second Sabbath in October. On Friday before this meeting continued until Sunday, October 17, 1858. There were twenty-eight members added to the church at this meeting. Elder B. Carter aided the Pastor. At the November meeting there were nineteen more added as the result of the meeting. The agent to raise subscriptions to build a new church reports $722.00 subscribed. Agent continued. Brethren C. W. Bessent, Benjamin Merrell and William Wyatt were selected as the Building Committee, to contract for and superintend the construction of new house of worship. The church again agrees to raise $10.00 for the objects of the convention. The church calls Elder Bessent to the Pastorate of this church and the arm at Pleasant Grove School House for the ensuing year. The pastorate year to begin and end with the Associational year.

January meeting 1859 divine services by Eld. Snider. The church fixes Pastor's salary at $100.00 and he accepts.

Brethren C. W. Bessent, S. A. Daniel, Jacob Williams and E. W. Tatum are chosen delegates to the Association for 1859. Protracted meeting to begin on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in November. The church calls Eld. Bessent to the care of the church for the next year at a salary of $100.00. He is present and accepts. Time for holding the protracted meeting is changed from the first to the second Sabbath in November. Ten dollars is collected for the objects of the convention. Brother J. J. Pack sent as delegate to the convention. There is no record in regard to the protracted meeting this year. At the February conference in 1860,

Brother Wm. Foster and wife were appointed house keepers. While there is no record of the building or completion of the new house the above appointment indicates that the house is finished and occupied.

At the June meeting, 1860, brother B. S. Merrell is instructed to procure an additional lot of land to the graveyard, one-half acre on the west side and the same on the south. At the next conference a deed for the additional lot of land for graveyard is presented as a gift by Dr. Milton Hobbs and the conference renders him a hearty vote of thanks for his liberality.

In 1860, August meeting, the church appoints Brethren C. W. Bessent, John J. Pack, E. W. Tatum and B. S. Merrell delegates to the Association. Friday evening before the 3rd Sabbath in October is fixed as the time to hold the Protracted meeting this year. The church then calls Eld. Bessent as Pastor for the next year. He accepts at a salary of $100.00 for the associational year. Brother Jacob Williams is asked to raise and pay over to Eld. Bessent ten dollars, the amount he paid out at the association pledge for 1859. At the July conference Bro-Shelby G. Parker and Bro. John F. Redwine were granted license to exhort and preach wherever their lots might be cast. The conference fixes upon Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October as the time to begin their protracted meeting and the clerk is instructed to invite Elds. Turner, Jones, Martin, Davis, Carter, Brown, and Williams to be with us at the protracted meeting. At September conference, a committee fixes pastors salary for next year at $75.00 and calls C. W. Bessent as pastor and he being present, begs to be excused from the pastoral care of the church. At the October conference the church voted to disconnect the arm at Pleasant Grove School House from this church. Then the church calls Elder Bessent at a salary of $75.00 for the services of this church alone and he being present accepted the call. In 1862 at the May meeting, the Building Committee is called on to report. They report and the report is satisfactory. The report is received and the committee is discharged and given a vote of thanks

for the faithful performance of the duty assigned them. The conference then appoints Bro. Samuel Garwood to raise the balance due on the building (the amount not stated). From the specifications we get the following: The House was 40′ x 60′ x 16′ between sills and plates, 10 windows, 15 lights 12″ x 18″, 3-12 lights 10″ x 12″ and 2-10 lights 10″ x 12″ and 5 Batten doors. The length extended east and west. The entrance at west end of building which covered part of the same spot occupied by the old log house. There is no record of the costs of material or building contract, but it is known that the members and friends gave, cut, and hewed the entire frame, furnished most of the lumber, built the dry-kiln and furnished the wood with which to dry the lumber. The shingles were hand made and jointed ready for use. There is no record as to who contributed money, material or labor for the building. Consequently, the cost of the house is not known. There was some lumber hauled from Holman's mill (now Cool Springs, in Iredell County). Whether this was a gift or purchase is not known. It was four years from the appointment of the Building Committee to the time they reported the work finished in May, 1862. The collector reported $722.00 subscribed before the work began, but did not state who contributed or what amount. While the cost is not known, the building was a credit to the community and pleased the church.

In August 1862, C. W. Bessent, S. A. Daniel, Samuel Foster, and B. S. Merrell were appointed delegates to the Association. Elder Bessent was again called to the pastorate of the church at a salary of $75.00 and he accepts at the October meeting.

In 1863 at the June meeting, the protracted meeting is to begin on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September. Services are conducted by Brothers Gaybard and Cornish. At the August meeting E. W. Tatum, S. A. Daniel, and D. C. Wyatt are chosen as delegates to the Association. The pastor is then excused from the chair and the church ballots for pastor for next year agreeing to pay a salary of $100.00. Eld. Wm. Brunt preaches at September meeting. Pastor Bessent accepts

the care of the church for the next year. 1864 January meeting. Services by Eld. Wm. Brunt. At the February meeting, the following members were given letters to join in organizing a church at Mocksville to wit: B. R. Eaton, W. H. Wyatt, Margaret Wyatt, Mary Martin, and Mary J. Eaton. In April Samuel Garwood was elected Treasurer at the April meeting in 1864. 1864 August meeting. The church voted to support the Association at home and appoints C. W. Bessent, S. A. Daniel, B. S. Merrell, and E. W. Tatum as delegates to the Association which meets here this year. At September meeting Elders N. S. Chaffin, Wm. Turner, Azariah Williams, and the pastor are chosen as a presbytery to attend the Association and examine Brother S. A. Daniel in regard to his qualification as a minister, and if they think proper ordain him to the full work of the ministry. Pastor Bessent is again called to the pastoral care of the church at a salary of $200.00. During the Association, Brother S. A. Daniel was examined, found qualified, and ordained to the full work of a minister by Elders Wm. Turner and C. W. Bessent. Elder Bessent accepts the pastorate of the church at the September meeting 1864.

Elder Cornish preaches at December meeting. Pastor Bessent preaches at the next seven appointments, but no business is done.

At the August meeting in 1865, Elias Dodson is present and preaches. Brethren S. A. Daniel, Milton Garwood, Amos Daniel and J. M. Click were appointed delegates to the Association. Eld. Bessent is again called and promised to answer at next meeting. 1865, September meeting. Eld. Bessent again accepts the pastorate of the church. Friday before the 5th Sabbath in October was agreed on as the time to begin the Protracted meeting. There was no conference in October on account of rain and no record of the Protracted meeting. On the 2nd Sunday in November, the pastor preaches at Jerusalem and is present and preaches at all conferences for the next nine meetings. At July meeting they set apart the 2nd Sabbath in September as the time

for holding a Protracted meeting. Breth. C. W. Bessent, S. A. Daniel, Tilmon Foster, John Pack, and E. W. Tatum are appointed delegates to the Association at the August meeting in 1866.

During the protracted meeting beginning on 2nd Sabbath, September conference is convened and the church proceeds to call a pastor. Eld. Bessent withdrew his name and Eld. John Cornish is elected as pastor and he agrees to serve.

CHAPTER VIII

Elder John W. Cornish, Pastor and Elder J. F. Redwine, Supply Pastor

In 1866 Elder John W. Cornish began his pastorate. At the October meeting 1866, receiving seven and dismissing four by letter at this conference. Eld. Cornish preached at the next three meetings. At February meeting Eld. Elias Dodson was present and preaches. At this meeting a committee was appointed to investigate the roll of members. At the March conference the church sent members to Woodruff's School House to receive members. Eight were received. At the June meeting 1867 an arm is set off at Woodruff's School House, with the privilege of worshiping and transacting business and report to this church twice each year. Brethren C. W. Bessent, B. S. Merrell, John Pack, and E. W. Tatum are delegates to the Association in 1867. At the September meeting 1867, Pastor Cornish was absent and Elder S. A. Daniel preaches and was moderator. The church called Eld. Wm. Turner as pastor and he is invited to be present at next meeting. At the next meeting, the arm of Woodruff's School House was called in and I. Davis called for letters for himself and Eunice Davis, R. P. Davis, and Alice Davis, which was granted. Eld. Bessent preached and held communion on Sabbath. There is no record of the November meeting, but from what follows Eld. Turner did not accept the call extended him.

Eld. Bessent preaches at December appointment in 1868 and the conference decided to call a pastor at the next meeting. The January conference deferred the calling of a pastor until next meeting. At this meeting the church accepts the petition for the constitution of a church at or near Jerusalem and Elds. Wm. Turner, John W. Cornish, and C. W. Bessent were selected as a presbytery to meet on Saturday before 5th Sunday in March to constitute said church. At the February meeting 1868, Bro. J. F. Redwine is called as supply for an indefinite time. Brother E. W. Tatum resigned as

clerk and another clerk is to be elected at next meeting. At that meeting Brother H. J. Beeker was elected clerk and Bro. Redwine accepts the call as supply pastor and is to be paid $15.00 per month. The church seems to have not paid pastor Bessent's salary for the years 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865. There was a motion by S. A. Daniel to scale the balance due on these years by the legal scale. This motion was lost and on motion of B. S. Merrell the church agrees to pay him at the rate of $75.00 per year. No meeting in April. Bro. S. G. Parker preached on Saturday and S. A. Daniel on Sunday at May service. At the July meeting Breth. B. S. Merrell, J. F. Redwine, S. A. Daniel and John Pack are appointed as delegates to the Association. At the November meeting a presbytery was appointed to examine Bro. J. F. Redwine and ordain him if found qualified, to wit: Eld. C. W. Bessent, Eld. Baldwin, and Eld. Marsh. As this presbytery did not attend at the next meeting they selected Elds. Bessent, Lambeth and Daniel to meet on the 3rd Saturday in February to ordain Bro. Redwine. This presbytery did not accept and the church then selects Elds. N. S. Chaffin, Brown, Oliver, and Bessent. The church at its March meeting 1869, organizes a "Sabbath School" by electing B. S. Merrell, A. H. Stewart, and William Foster as its Superintendent. The presbytery again fails and Eld. D. Horn and A. Yarbrough were asked to be present on Saturday before the 3rd Lord's Day in June to assist Elds. Bessent, and Daniel in the ordination of Bro. Redwine. Brethren B. S. Merrell, Samuel Foster, and Colman Foster were appointed to devise a plan for raising a fund for the use of the church. At the June meeting 1869, Elds. Horn and Yarbrough fail to attend and the church instructs Elds. Bessent and Daniel to proceed to examine Bro. Redwine and ordain him if found qualified. They retire and examine him and report him well qualified and ordain him to the full work of the ministry. The next day, it being the Sabbath, B. S. Merrell, Wm. Foster, and Dr. Milton Hobbs are appointed to erect the iron gate to the graveyard. Elder Redwine was chosen pastor of the church by ballot at the July meeting in 1869 and a meeting of day was appointed to begin on

Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in September 1869. Elders Lewellen, Horn, Bessent, and Aaron Yarbrough are invited to assist in the meeting. Brethren S. A. Daniel, H. C. Foster, J. F. Redwine and Conrad Hendrix are appointed delegates to the Association at the August conference and $5.00 is subscribed for missions. At the October meeting 1869, the church again extends a call to Eld. Wm. Turner to become pastor of the church. There is no record of his acceptance, but the time for holding the monthly services is changed from the 3rd Sabbath to the 4th Sabbath and Saturday before, presumably for the accomodation of the new pastor.

CHAPTER IX

Second Pastorate of Elder William Turner

Elder William Turner entered his second pastorate of this church at the January meeting in 1870. Pastor Turner preached at the first three meetings. Eld. Ammons is present and preaches at the April meeting. At this conference Elder John F. Redwine is appointed as missionary to preach at Dulins School House. The church to sustain him for the Associational year. At the August meeting Breth. B. S. Merrell, S. A. Daniel, John F. Redwine and Conrad Hendrix were chosen delegates to the Association. Pastor Turner is absent at the August meeting. At the November conference Eld. Turner was called as pastor for the next year at a salary of $150.00. He was present at each meeting until May when he was absent on account of being sick. He is still unable to attend at the June service. Brethren John F. Redwine, Nathaniel Hendrix, Henry Foster, and Samuel Foster are appointed delegates to the Association at the July meeting. Pastor is excused from attending our meeting so that he may attend the Liberty Association. A meeting of days is set for the 4th Sabbath in October. At the August appointment Eld. S. A. Daniel preaches. At the September conference the church grants the public school the use of the church building for school purposes. In October 1871 by a unanimous vote Eld. Wm. Turner is chosen pastor for another year. The protracted meeting held at time set, and continued for two weeks. On Thursday, October 26, 1871, eleven persons were received as candidates for baptism. On the 29th, twenty-seven others were received at the regular meeting on November 24th, two others were received and 37 of the 40 were baptised on this day by pastor Turner. At this meeting Eld. Turner accepts the call to serve the church next year. Eld. John B. Marsh assisted the pastor in the above meeting and the church allows Turner's absence on the next day and Sabbath to help Eld. Marsh in a meeting at Eatons.

In 1872 pastor Turner is present and preaches at

each service to June. Eld. John F. Redwine is to supply for pastor during July and August while pastor is at the springs. The 4th Sabbath in October is fixed as the time for a protracted meeting. At August meeting, Eld. Redwine preaches and Brethren H. C. Ratts, P. J. Cope, B. S. Merrell, and Geo. W. Sheets are chosen as delegates to the Association. Elders J. B. Marsh and W. R. Gualtney are invited to help in meeting. There is no record of the August meeting (1872). At the November conference the annual call for a pastor is discontinued and the present pastorate is to continue as long as the church and pastor Eld. Wm. Turner remain satisfied.

At the January meeting 1873, Jerusalem church asked that Fork delegate two of her members to meet with them in council on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in February. Brethren Conrad Hendrix and B. S. Merrell were sent. At the April meeting Brother Wm. Foster asked to be excused from service as Housekeeper. The church excused him and thanked him for long service rendered. Brother H. C. Ratts and wife were appointed in their stead. At the May meeting, 1873, the division of the Yadkin Association was discussed and Brothers Wilson F. Merrell and P. Jacob Cope were appointed to attend a minister's and deacon's meeting to be held with Trading Ford Church on Friday before the 5th Sunday in June 1873. Breth. Samuel Foster, A. Milton Garwood, Wilson F. Merrell, and Henry C. Foster were selected as delegates to the Yadkin Association which met with Cross Roads Church in Yadkin County for the session of 1873. There is no record of the fact that the delegates to the Minister's and Deacon's meeting held at Trading Ford Church in June. In 1873 it was adjudged by this meeting that the interests of the Master's Kingdom demanded that the Baptist Churches located in Davie, Iredell, and Rowan and Mecklenburg counties should separate themselves from the Yadkin Association and form a new association for a better prosecution of the work of the Kingdom in this section. This meeting also recommended that the churches in this territory ask letters of dismission from the Yadkin Association in order to

organize a new body in the near future. Fork Baptist Church then instructed her delegates to the Yadkin Association to secure a letter of dismission for her that she might join in the organizing of the new body. Brethren A. Milton Garwood and Wilson F. Merrell attended the Association and secured the letter of dismission.

The delegates and pastors of the churches securing letters agreed to meet at New Hope Church in Iredell County in November, 1873 to organize the new body. It is recorded that Fork Baptist Church appointed at her September conference, 1873, Brethren Wilson F. Merrell, Nathaniel Hendrex, S. A. Daniel and Robert I. Foster as delegates to represent her in the organization of the new association.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: At this point in the original Merrell Manuscript there was an indication that Mr. Merrell planned to include a history of the organization of the South Yadkin Baptist Association. Perhaps he died before being able to include this material as it does not appear in the manuscript.

The conference then agrees to protract their October meeting and the church concurs with her pastor in inviting Eld. J. B. Marsh to be with them at their October meeting. There is no record of the October meeting or the protracted meeting. Brother Geo. L. Merrell joins at the January meeting 1874. At the February conference Brethren Wilson F. Merrell, Jesse S. Deadmon, Hiram Ratts and Samuel Foster were appointed to represent the church in Minister's and Deacon's meeting to be held at Eatons Church, beginning on Friday before the 5th Sunday in March, 1874.

At the June meeting 1874, our pastor is given the privilege of taking a collection on Sunday for Foreign Missions and the Oxford Orphange Asylum. This is the first time either of these objects have been mentioned. Brethren Hiram Ratts, Colman Foster, H. J. Beeker and Jesse Deadmon were appointed delegates

to the Association. The church is to hold a meeting of days embracing 4th Sabbath in October 1874. As a result of this meeting 3 are added to the church. In 1875 January meeting, the pastor was granted the privilege to take a collection for the Oxford Orphan Asylum.

At the July meeting in 1875, Brethren B. S. Merrell, H. C. Ratts, J. G. Foster, and Colman Foster were appointed delegates to the South Yadkin Association which meets with Fork Church this year. A committee was appointed to provide homes for the delegates and visitors, to wit: Wilson F. Merrell, Nathaniel Hendrix and Pleasant L. Foster. There is no further statement about the Association recorded. The writer adds that the body met according to set time. Eld. J. B. Richardson preached the introductory sermon. Eld. B. Griffith was moderator and Bro. S. J. Tatum clerk. The churches were well represented and the session was an enthusiastic one and large plans were made for next year's work. The 1876 session to be held at Eatons Church, Davie County, N. C.

At the February conference Brethren Wm. D. Mason, P. J. Cope, H. C. Foster, Daniel V. Davis, and Geo. L. Merrell are selected as a Finance Committee to manage the finances of the church. This conference also agreed to take a monthly collection for incidentals on Sunday of each monthly meeting.

The September meeting was protracted for one week, and seventeen members are added as a result of the meeting.

Bro. Samuel Foster is selected to supervise the repairing of the church roof at the October meeting 1876. Brethren A. H. Stewart, Geo. L. Merrell, H. C. Ratts, and John Thompson are chosen to represent the church in the Union Meeting held with Jerusalem Church beginning on Friday before the 5th Sunday in July, 1877. The South Yadkin Association met with Bethel Baptist Church in Iredell County in 1877, and Brethren Nathaniel Hendrix, H. C. Foster, Wilson F. Merrell, and P. L. Foster were the delegates from Fork. The October

meeting was protracted. Elders J. B. Marsh and S. F. Conrad aiding the pastor in the meeting. There is no record of this meeting as to length or result.

In 1877, December conference, the church for some reason, ballots for pastor and vote is unanimously for the present pastor. Bro. Samuel Foster, treasurer of Sunday collections reported $21.42 collected and expended $25.05. January meeting, 1878. Bro. H. C. Foster is elected sexton. At the May meeting of this year Brother J. H. Beekers resignation as church clerk was accepted and the church thanked him for his services. The conference then elects W. F. Merrell as clerk for one year. The members are requested to contribute to the support of our aged sister, Elizabeth Wyatt, who also receives a bounty from the county. This is the second time in the history of the church that help has been rendered to needy members. Neither A. M. Garwood, R. I. Foster or W. F. Merrell attend the Minister's and Deacon's meeting at Bethel Church as requested to do. The next session of South Yadkin Association meets with Mocksville on Thursday the second Sunday in September 1878. Brethren B. S. Merrell, Samuel Foster, Wm. D. Mason and W. F. Merrell were delegates to this meeting. At the July meeting Elder J. B. Boone of Statesville and Brother W. B. Clement of Mocksville were present. Eld. Boone solicited subscriptions to aid in seating Statesville Baptist Church and Brother Clement encourages the workers in Associational Missions. Eld. Boone preached on Sunday, Text Matthew 13:33.

Pastor Turner was absent by permission to attend the Liberty Association in August. Eld. Daniel preaches. Pastor preaches at September appointment. Bro. W. B. Clement, secretary of the Associational Board of Missions was present and urged the church to more fully enlist her members in the work of missions. October meeting in 1878 is protracted. Eld. J. B. Marsh aids the pastor in this meeting until Friday when four members were received. The Pastor and Elder Marsh leave the meeting and Elder Redwine continues the meeting until Sunday. At the January meeting in 1879 the

church increases Pastor Turner's salary to $200.00 and he continues as pastor at the February conference. The finance committee apportions the pastor's salary among the membership.

In March 1879, Brethren Samuel Foster, H. C. Ratts, and W. F. Merrell are appointed as trustees to hold the deed for a lot of land purchased of Dr. Milton Hobbs for school purposes. The next Minister's and Deacon's meeting was held at New Hope Church on Friday before 5th Sunday in March and Geo. W. Hendrix, Nathaniel Hendrix, and H. M. Foster were delegates from Fork. Bro. Samuel Foster, treasurer of incidental fund reported $40.19 collected and $34.63 disbursed, balance on hand $5.96. The conference then elects W. F. Merrell treasurer in the place of H. C. Ratts, who resigned, and instructs him to receive from the Finance Committee all money collected and to pay such sums as he receives to the pastor monthly and report quarterly. Minister's and Deacon's meeting was held with Eatons Church on Friday before 5th Saturday in June. Brethren G. L. Merrell, R. I. Foster, and D. C. Redwine were the delegates from Fork.

The Minister's and Deacon's meeting or Union meeting of the South Yadkin Association met with Fork Church on Friday before the 5th Sunday in August, 1879, and the members are mostly present and the session was unusually instructive and helpful to all present.

The book, in which the records of Fork Baptist Church have been recorded from October 1851 up to and including the minutes for the September meeting in 1879, being full, the church has made a large leather-bound book for the better preservation of the future records of the church. The records of the October conference of 1879 and all future records and other historical matters are recorded in this new book up to and including the year 1917.

It is apparent from the records of Fork Missionary Baptist Church since the organization of the South Yad-

kin Association that she has entered new fields of service and made new plans for the better prosecution of the work of the church, both at home and in cooperation with the other members of the association.

In proof of this, we note that she appointed a committee to revise the roll of membership so that she might know how many active members she has that she can enlist in carrying forward the work of the Master's Kingdom. This resulted in quite a loss in membership. The committee could not find 13 members. These were erased from the roll, others were dismissed by letter or excluded as necessity demanded. The church also chose a spiritual committee to assist in the discipline of the members. A finance committee was appointed to form plans and select methods of execution that will produce the needed funds to bear the expenses of the church and provide for her now numerous benevolences.

It was ordered that a collection be taken on Sunday of each monthly meeting to meet incidental expenses. Samuel Foster was selected treasurer of this fund. The pastoral year was to begin and end with the associational year. The church promised to raise funds to aid in sustaining Foreign, Home and Associational Mission and Education.

To crown all of these advances the church planned to buy a lot on which to erect a school building in which to open an Academic School, with a trained principal at its head, for the purpose of training the young for more excellent service than they would otherwise be able to render. To this end the church bought a lot of land, adjoining the west side of the church lot, from Dr. Milton Hobbs, and elected Brethren Samuel Foster, Wilson F. Merrell and H. C. Ratts as trustees to whom the deed was made. The trustees were instructed to procure the material and erect the building and have it ready for use by the first of August if possible, at which time Mr. C. A. Rominger, A.B. of Wake Forest College was to open the school. The house was not finished in time and the first session opened on first Monday in August in the church building and was taught

there until the academy was finished and ready to be occupied in October 1879. The school was a success from the beginning. Prof. C. A. Rominger was principal from August 1879 to the close of the spring session in 1882. Prof. John T. Alderman began in August 1882 and served until 1892. He was followed by J. B. Newton, who taught for two sessions, who was followed by Prof. J. E. Alderman, who was principal for 3 years. Prof. M. F. Foster taught 3 years, F. M. Carter was principal in 1900. Miss Annie P. Smith taught the session 1900 and 1901. Prof. Chas. P. Burchette of Wilkes County began the next session, but resigned and left in October 1901. W. F. Merrell then became principal and served until 1914 when he resigned and was followed by Prof. Long, who taught one session. Prof. Long was followed by Prof. Pegg of Sedge Garden, N. C., who was principal for two years. Rev. J. T. Fitzjerald one year, and Prof. Taylor one year. Miss Smoot one year and then W. F. Merrell in 1928, 1929, and 1930.

The first record in the new book was made in October 20, 1879. The same being an account of a protracted meeting held at that time. Elders H. A. Brown, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Winston, N. C. and G. P. Hamrick aided the pastor in the services. Six members were added during the meeting.

At the December conference in 1879 the envelope system of collecting funds was adopted. The Superintendent of Finance was required to place four envelopes in the hands of each member and these were to be returned in February, April, October, and December, with such contribution as each member wished to make. If anyone failed to return the envelope with a contribution, it was made the duty of the Superintendent of Finance to pass his or her name to the deacons as well as those contributing and the amount contributed and if the deacons were satisfied that any members had flagrantly and willingly failed to perform his duty, they should remonstrate with the offender, thus failing, report the case to the church. Bro. C. A. Rominger is

selected as Superintendent of Finance and Bro. W. F. Merrell as assistance. Bro. Samuel Foster, treasurer of the incidental fund reports a balance on hand of $17.95 up to February 21, 1880.

Brethren Samuel Hendrix, R. I. Foster and R. F. Garwood represented the church in the Union Meeting held at Bethel Church in Iredell County, N. C. in February 1880. By permission Bro. P. J. Cope took up a collection for the Oxford Asylum on the fourth Sunday in April. The treasurer reported that $57.58 has been collected through the envelope system and he is ordered by the conference to pay the pastor one-fourth of his salary, $50.00 and distribute the balance for mission according to the usual custom. The Treasurer of the Academy Building Committee reported at this meeting and the church thanks the committee for their services and the contributors for their contributions.

Eld. T. Harrison, agent for foreign missions, was present at the June meeting and gave an exposition of the Foreign Mission Work and took a collection for that object to wit: $5.74. Pastor preached on Sunday and took a collection for Associational Missions amounting to $5.58. At the July meeting the treasurer was ordered to pay balance due on pastor's salary and divide balance on hand among the objects of benevolences. A collection of $4.75 was raised on Sunday to be divided as above.

August 21, 1880, the church letter was read and adopted as follows: We send as messengers, C. A. Rominger, Geo. L. Merrell, J. R. Williams and W. F. Merrell. Report: Baptises 3, received by letter 2, restored 1, dismissed by letter 8, excluded 4, and 1 died, number of males, 78; females, 134; colored 3, total 215. Contribution: Pastor's salary $20.00, incidentals, $2.85; Education, $6.67; State Missions, $6.67; Foreign Missions, $6.66; Associational Missions, $20.00; other objects, $55.50; minute fund, $2.05. Sunday School: 119 scholars, 7 teachers and officers, average thirty, 45 volumes in library, 55 papers taken, school kept open twelve months.

The association met with Statesville Church in 1880. The delegates report a well attended and interesting meeting. The October meeting 1880 was protracted. Elders J. B. Marsh and S. F. Conrad aided the pastor in conducting the meeting. The meeting closed on the following Sunday night. Nineteen members were added to the church. At the February meeting in 1881 the envelope system was discontinued. W. F. Merrell is continued as clerk and treasurer for this year. The clerk is instructed to select a Finance Committee with a list of the names of the members residing in his neighborhood. Brethren A. M. Garwood, M. F. Foster, D. C. Redwine and George Graves were selected and instructed to collect the pastor's salary. Eld. J. B. Boone is present at the May meeting and preached on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday after sermon, he raised a liberal subscription toward building a church house in Salisbury, N. C. Fork Church building was repainted and Bro-Samuel Foster was instructed to apply the balance in hand, $31.47, to painting bill and D. V. Davis and C. A. Rominger were appointed to collect $15.00, the balance due.

Brother B. H. Philips is licensed to preach the gospel and then dismissed by letter to join the Baptist Church at Waughtown, at the August meeting in 1881. This meeting is protracted and Elders H. A. Brown and D. A. Woodson aid in the services. The meeting closed on Friday with eight conversions.

An arm of the church was established at Chaplins Stand (now Bixby) at the October meeting in 1881. On the first Saturday in November, Elders Redwine, and Daniel convened a conference of the members of Fork Church at that place and received four by experience. These were baptised on Sunday morning and then two were received by letter. On March 25, 1882, Bro. Samuel Foster reports that the collections for incidentals amounts to $60.94, and that he paid out on painting $62.58. This balance of $1.63 is raised by collecting. By prevailing motion, the collection on Sunday March 26, 1882 was given to Associational Missions. The collection amounted to $3.77.

The Union Meeting met with this church on Friday before the 5th Sunday in April 1882, and Breth. H. C. Ratts, Geo. W. Hendrix, D. C. Redwine, H. M. Foster and R. F. Garwood were delegates. The collection on May 28 of $2.77 was devoted to State Missions. The collection at next meeting given to Foreign Mission. At the July meeting the collection was for Education, which amounted to $2.37.

At the September meeting 1882, the church votes on pastor. Eld. Turner receives a majority, but said he would not serve with the minority against him. The matter is deferred until next meeting. Bro. J. J. Pack resigned as sexton, the vote for pastor is made unanimous at the October conference. Collection for Foreign Missions on Sunday was $1.78.

The November meeting 1882 was protracted. Elders Henry Sheets and H. A. Brown assist the pastor. Collection on Sunday for Foreign Mission was $3.86. On Thursday after sermon, a collection of $7.00 was taken for the Oxford Orphan Asylum.

The meeting closed on Sunday, November 26, 1882. Nine were added by baptism and two by letter.

At the January meeting, Bro. John G. Foster is employed as sexton, agreeing to furnish wood, oil and keep windows repaired. For this service he was to be released from all dues to pastoral support. This is the first time a sexton has served for a consideration. Present clerk continued.

At April meeting 1883, a collection of $5.00 was raised to pay for lumber used in building a baptismal pool, Although the church had previously used a pool, this is the first time it is mentioned. At the next meeting, a collection of $7.00 was made to pay for building the pool. At the July conference, Breth. H. C. Foster, Geo. W. Hendrix, John G. Foster, and D. C. Redwine are chosen to represent the church in the next session of the South Yadkin Association which meets at Society Baptist Church in Iredell County on Thursday be-

fore the 2nd Sunday in September, 1883. They are instructed to pledge the same amounts for the objects of the association as was paid last year.

Summary of letter to association, 1883.

STATISTICS

Baptized 6, received by letter 2, total gain 8; dismissed by letter 2, excluded 2, died 8, loss 11; present white members 221.

FINANCIAL

Pastor's salary $200.00, Education $10.00, State Missions $10.00, Associational Missions $30.00, Foreign Missions $5.00, church extension $5.00, other objects $40.00, minute fund $2.75, total $302.75.

No Sunday School report.

At the September meeting the delegates to the association reported that the session was harmonious and the Executive Board was out of debt.

This meeting was protracted. Elders J. M. C. Luke and J. F. Redwine aid pastor during the meeting. Ten members were added at this meeting. At the October meeting, Eld. Wm. Turner is again elected pastor and accepts the work for another year. Breth. D. V. Davis, Samuel Foster, W. F. Merrell, L. M. Hege and Geo. Graves were appointed to apportion pastor's salary among the membership and the clerk was ordered to read the rules of decorum and Church Covenant at the next conference.

On November 24, 1883, the clerk reads the Church Covenant and rules of decorum. At the January conference 1884, Breth. H. M. Foster and J. C. Carter are appointed to be collectors to fill the place of G. L. Merrell who resigned, and D. C. Redwine, who was dismissed by letter.

By prevailing motion the roll of male members was ordered called monthly and the names of females called

quarterly. Those failing to answer for three successive roll callings to render excuse for absence.

The funeral of Deacon Conrad Hendrix was preached on Sunday, May 25, 1884. The July meeting was protracted. Elders Lee White of Winston and S. F. Conrad assist the pastor in the services. On Wednesday July 4, 1884, B. Kelley Mason is received by experience. There were ten members added during this meeting. The church was greatly revived. The meeting closed on Friday afternoon.

In August 1884, the pastor was absent by permission to attend the Liberty Association. Eld. John F. Redwine preached on Saturday and Eld. J. N. Stallings of Thomasville Female College preached on Sunday. The September conference ordered that the church hereafter elect a pastor annually. Thereupon, the conference called a conference to meet on October 11, 1884 for the purpose of calling a pastor. At this meeting a majority of those present voted by ballot, in favor of changing pastors, but the selection of a pastor was deferred until next meeting.

During the regular conference on Saturday October 25, 1884, Pastor Turner tendered his resignation as pastor to take effect at the end of the year. By prevailing motion, Breth. W. F. Merrell, M. F. Foster and H. C. Ratts were appointed to ascertain who can be procured as pastor for next year. At the November meeting this committee is continued. Pastor present and preaches at December meeting and closes his pastorate.

Eld. Wm. Turner preached at the January appointment. Eld. J. F. Redwine at the February meeting. At this meeting, W. F. Merrell was re-elected as clerk and treasurer for 1885. The appointment for last year is continued for 1885. At the March appointment, Eld. C. E. Gower is present and preaches. The collectors are asked to make special effort to collect the balance due by members by our next service. The next Union meeting was held with Salisbury Church on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in this month. Breth. F. A. Foster, George

Graves, Geo. W. Hendrix, and H. C. Ratts were delegates. Another forward step. The committee to find a suitable minister for pastor were instructed to confer with Mocksville and Jerusalem churches looking to the securing of the same minister as pastor of these churches, and are authorized to offer $150.00 per year for services once a month.

CHAPTER X

Elder C. E. Gower's Pastorate

At the April conference this committee reports that Mocksville and Jerusalem have called Rev. C. E. Gower and that one-fourth of his time is unoccupied and that he may be secured as pastor of this church now. The conference then extends a unanimous call to Eld. C. E. Gower to become pastor of this church, at a salary of $125.00 for balance of the year. Eld. Gower is notified and comes in and accepts the call. Eld. Gower preaches on Sunday. The collection for State Missions is $1.63. Breth. H. M. Foster, Geo. W. Hendrix, Nathaniel Hendrix, and D. R. Davis are delegates at the Union held at Eatons Church in May. Rev. C. E. Gower is present at both services. Communion services on Sunday. Collection for Associational Missions $4.20.

August conference 1885. Breth. W. D. Mason, John A. Kestler, Geo. L. Merrell and Wilson F. Merrell are sent as delegates to the association and instructed to increase the pledges of the church $10.00 for the coming year. The committee appointed to revise the church roll at the August meeting report at the October meeting and make the following recommendations: 1st, that the church exclude all members who have left the country and will not hear the church or answer her calls, 2nd, all who have failed to attend or pay their dues shall be notified to attend and give reason for their failure, 3rd, that those who fail to attend and promise amendment be excluded for failure up to the present time, 4th, that those who fail to attend and make like promise shall be dealt with as covetous covenant breakers. 5th, that those who complain that their apportionment is too great are requested to state the amount they are willing to pay and that this amount shall be required of them. These recommendations were adopted. A list of forty-one absentees follows and are to be handled at the next conference. Bro. Geo. L. Merrell was granted license to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ wherever his lot may be cast. This meeting was protracted through the week. There were about

twenty conversions and eleven members were added to the church.

At the November conference in 1885, a committee was appointed to visit the forty-one delinquents on the roll and report to the next meeting. At the December and following conferences twenty-one of these delinquents were excused, four dismissed by letter and fifteen were excluded. At the May conference 1886, Brethren W. F. Merrell, A. M. Garwood, Nathaniel Hendrix, W. D. Mason, H. M. Foster, and Robert I. Foster were chosen as Deacons and were ordained on June 27, 1886 by a presbytery, to wit: Eld. A. T. Hord of Cleveland, N. C., Eld. John F. Redwine and Eld. C. E. Gower of this church. Eld. Hord preaches at this sermon. Brother Geo. L. Merrell is present and preaches on Saturday of the August meeting.

The committee previously appointed to collect funds and recover the church house report, the south side covered and paid for $75.00. The committee was continued to cover the other side. Breth. Wm. D. Mason, Wilson F. Merrell, J. W. McCulloh and Nathaniel Hendrix represented the church in the session of the South Yadkin Association held with New Hope Church in September 1886. The Union meeting met at Fork Church on September 7, 1886. Breth. M. F. Foster, B. K. Mason, Samuel Foster and H. M. Foster were the delegates.

The "Biblical Recorder" is first mentioned in the church records at September meeting in 1886.

In 1886 at the September meeting a committee was appointed to raise funds to buy chandeliers and stoves for the church. The October meeting was protracted for two weeks. Elders John F. Redwine and D. O. Duncan of Lexington assist pastor in the meeting. Thirty-two were added by experience and two restored to fellowship. Elder Gower was re-elected pastor for 1887 at the November conference and Brother W. D. Mason was chosen clerk. At the December meeting Treasurer Garwood reported: collected, $140.82; paid pastor, $37.25 and other objects $69.47, over paid $1.92. By vote of

the church, only such meetings as pertain to divine worship are to be held in the church building. For the second time in the records of the church, she grants her pastor a holiday, so there is no service in February 1887. At the May conference, Prof. J. T. Alderman is allowed to hold his commencement in the meeting house. At the June service Elder Isaac Davis of Kentucky and Bro. J. O. Alderman of Lexington are present as visitors.

Rev. Frank Tatum, Missionary to China, was present and preached at both services at the July meeting 1887. The Association met at Eatons in 1887 and the delegates from Fork were Brethren W. F. Merrell, D. R. Davis, Nathaniel Hendrix, and B. K. Mason, who were instructed to pledge $70.00 to the objects of the Association. At the September conference, Eld. C. E. Gower resigned as pastor of the church to take effect at close of year. The resignation was accepted and the conference votes to elect a pastor at next regular meeting. At the time appointed Eld. J. N. Stallings was called as pastor at a salary of $200.00. Eld. H. Sheets of Lexington and Eld. J. F. Redwine assist the pastor in the protracted meeting. At the close of the meeting 6 members were received. Pastor Gower was absent at both December and November conferences. Eld. Redwine preached at November meeting and Dr. Milton Hobbs is buried on the day for next service.

CHAPTER XI

Dr. J. N. Stallings' Pastorate

January 21, 1888, Dr. J. N. Stallings is present and takes up the work as pastor in 1888. Breth. R. F. Garwood, M. F. Foster, D. M. Williams and Jacob Stewart are delegates to the Union Meeting to meet at Society Church in Iredell County on the fifth Sunday in this month. At the February conference delegates R. F. Garwood reported the Union Meeting post-poned until 5th Sunday in next month. March meeting a number of delinquents were excused for absences. The April services were held in honor of Dr. Yates of China and a collection of $8.36 taken for Foreign Missions. Brethren W. F. Merrell, Nathaniel Hendrix, R. F. Garwood and B. F. Copple were appointed delegates to the Association which meets at New Bethany Church. They were instructed to pledge the same for the different objects as were paid last year and to invite the Association to meet with this church next year. Eld. Geo. L. Merrell is present and preaches at August Saturday service and pastor preaches on Sunday. On Saturday September 22, 1888, Bro. J. T. Alderman was received by letter.

Pastor is absent at the October meeting. Bro. B. F. Copple preached at the October service as pastor Stallings was absent. On November 24, 1888, Pastor Stallings was re-elected as pastor and accepts. Bro. J. T. Alderman is elected clerk and W. F. Merrell is chosen treasurer for 1889. The committee chosen to investigate the graveyard matter, reported that Bro. G. W. McDaniels services ended with the year for which he was employed and paid for in full, and the church was under no obligations for further services by him. At the December meeting the treasurer reported $170.00 paid on salary and $10.00 in hand for colportage.

The arm at Chaplins Stand was abolished at the February conference in 1889. At the March meeting the pastor and deacons were directed to prepare statement in regard to dancing. At the May conference they present the following: "That it has always been the

belief of the Baptist Church that dancing in all of its phases is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Gospel, and members holding or engaging in them should be dealt with as revelers." At the June meeting 1889, Brethren P. S. Stewart, J. W. McCollough and L. M. Hege are appointed delegates to the Union meeting to be held at Salisbury Baptist Church, embracing the 5th Sunday in that month. They were requested to confer with the pastor of the church and secure the ordination of Brother Geo. L. Merrell at the Union meeting if found worthy. The pastor and delegates report that Brother Geo. L. Merrell was examined and duly ordained to the full work of the ministry at Salisbury on the 5th Sabbath in June 1889, by the following presbytery, to wit: Elders J. N. Stallings, J. F. Tuttle, W. J. Fulford and C. S. Cashwell. Bro. John G. Foster resigned as sexton and the church employs Bro. D. V. Davis for $15.00 per year. Brethren A. M. Garwood, Wm. D. Mason and J. A. Kestler were delegates to the South Yadkin Association which met at Trading Ford Baptist Church on September 3-5, 1889. This church reported by letter as follows to this Association: Membership, 76 males; 150 females, total 226; salary, $200.00; incidentals, $12.00; minutes, $1.55; State Missions, $10.00; total, $343.55. This conference appoints a prayer meeting to be held on each Sunday at 4 o'clock P.M., and Eld. Stallings is re-elected pastor and accepts the call. The pastor was absent on both Saturday and Sunday on account of rain and high water. The clerk held prayer meeting on Sunday morning and announced a service at 7 o'clock P.M., as this meeting was to be protracted. At the evening service Pastor Stallings and Eld. C. S. Cashwell are present and the meeting was continued until the following Sabbath, when 20 members were added and 18 were baptized. Eld. Cashwell was given a purse of $22.00. Bro. D. V. Davis resigned as sexton and Bro. H. C. Foster was elected in his stead on December 21, 1889. W. F. Merrell was chosen treasurer for 1890. The collections during 1890 to be for missions. On Saturday, May 24, 1890, Eld. Geo. L. Merrell preached. It became the duty of the church to exclude one of her deacons in April 1890. At the June meeting

1890, the act allowing the clerk $10.00 per year was received.

The former clerk and deacon gave his claim of $25.00 to the church and the present clerk relinquished all claims for services. July 26, 1890, the South Yadkin Association is to meet here in September of this year. Brethren A. M. Garwood, Nathaniel Hendrix, R. I. Foster, Geo. W. Sheets, Jacob Cope, P. L. Foster and J. C. Carter are appointed to arrange for the meeting. Brethren J. W. McCulloh, M. F. Foster, and Samuel Foster are selected to endeavor to secure an additional lot of land adjoining the church lot. Brethren W. F. Merrell, Obadiah Foster, J. C. Carter and A. M. Garwood were selected as delegates to the Association on August 22, 1890. Summary of Associational Letter: Pastor's salary $200.00; incidentals, $60.00; repairs, $65.00; minutes, $1.00; orphanage, $15.00; Home Missions, $5.00; State Missions, $45.00; Foreign Missions, $15.00; Education, $10.00; Total $401.00; Membership, 83 males, 146 females, total 229.

The South Yadkin Association met at Fork Baptist Church on September 9, 10, and 11, 1890. J. B. Holman was moderator; S. J. Tatum, clerk; visiting ministers, Elders J. A. Spaight, Associate Editor Recorder; Chas. E. Taylor, D.D., President of Wake Forest College; C. Durham, D.D., Secretary State Mission Board; Eld. W. G. Brown, Yadkin Association; Thos. Carrick, H. Sheets, and J. M. Bennett of Liberty Association and J. H. Miller of the orphanage.

There is nothing recorded in regard to the resignation of Dr. J. N. Stallings as pastor, but at the September meeting the conference extends a unanimous call to Eld. C. S. Cashwell to become pastor of the church at a salary of $150.00. He did not accept. A committee was appointed to correspond with ministers and the State and Associational Boards as to securing a pastor.

On December 27, 1890, Breth. R. S. Foster, A. M. Garwood, and Nathaniel Hendrix are appointed to secure the building of a baptistry. Bro. J. T. Alderman was re-elected clerk and W. F. Merrell, treasurer.

CHAPTER XII

Elder J. F. Redwine Again Serves as Supply Pastor

Elder J. F. Redwine preached at the meeting on January 27, 1891. The committee to purchase the lot of land reported that it can be had for $60.00. Bro. H. Proctor was employed as sexton at a salary of $12.00 per year. At the February conference Eld. Redwine was chosen as supply pastor until a regular pastor is secured, and is to be paid for his services. Eld. S. F. Conrad of Winston was present and preaches at the May meeting and collected $25.00 to aid in building a church house at Ruffin, N. C.

On August 22, 1891, the following members were granted letters to assist in the organization of a Baptist Church at Advance, N. C. to wit: Brethren J. R. Williams, Sr., D. R. Davis, and N. W. Potts, and Sisters M. E. Charles, and Adelphia Myers. Brethren J. W. McCulloh, J. C. Carter, J. J. Pack, and D. M. Williams were chosen delegates to the Association for 1891. Bro. J. T. Alderman having been elected principal of Reidsville School, resigned as church clerk. Brother Alderman, while clerk, prepared a sketch of the early history of this church and recorded it on the first pages of the large church book. The church is greatly indebted to him for this service. On September 6, 1891, Eld. J. B. Newton, who was then principal of the Academic School, preached. The object of this called conference was to raise $75.00 due on pledges to the Association. This was accomplished and the delegates were instructed to pledge the same amounts as for last year.

At the September conference, 1891, Bro. F. A. Foster was elected church clerk for the balance of 1891. The delegates to the Association reported a harmonious session and great progress made during the year. A motion to call a pastor was tabled until next meeting. At the regular meeting held on October 24, 1891, Eld. J. B. Newton was called as pastor of Fork Church. He accepts agreeing to preach on 4th Sunday and Saturday before and on the 2nd Sunday at 11 o'clock A.M. for a salary of $250.00.

This meeting was protracted for two weeks. Eld. C. S. Cashwell aided pastor Redwine in the meeting. Eighteen members were added and the church greatly revived.

At the November conference, the church appoints Elders W. A. Pool, C. S. Cashwell and J. F. Redwine a presbytery to examine Bro. J. B. Newton and, if found qualified, to ordain him to the full work of the ministry. During the Union meeting at South River Baptist Church, Breth. J. C. Carter, P. L. Foster, and P. R. Potts are appointed delegates to this Union.

On account of excessive rains, Bro. J. B. Newton was not ordained at the Union meeting at South River Church on the 5th Sunday in November 1891, as was planned; but a presbytery consisting of Elders Thos. Carrick of Lexington Baptist Church, J. F. Redwine of this church, met at Fork Church on 2nd Sabbath in February 1889, and after a satisfactory examination, ordained Bro. J. B. Newton to the full work of a gospel minister. Eld. Carrick preached the sermon, Eld. J. D. Newton delivered the charge, and Eld. J. F. Redwine presented the Bible. The congregation then presented Eld. J. B. Newton a purse of $6.54, with which to buy him a Bible.

At December meeting 1891, Elder Redwine preaches, Bro. F. A. Foster was elected clerk for 1892.

During Eld. Redwine's pastorate, twenty persons were received as members, one was dismissed by letter and four were excluded. But for the lack of necessary contributions by the members, this was a successful year's work.

CHAPTER XIII

Elder J. B. Newton's Pastorate

Eld. J. B. Newton's pastorate 1892-1893. On account of the deep snow on the ground, there was no meeting in January 1892. Eld. J. B. Newton and W. F. Merrell were the only ones present on Sunday. Pastor Newton preaches at the February appointment. The delegates to the Union meeting reported that the next Union will meet with Mocksville Church on 5th Sunday in May. The treasurer is ordered to report monthly. W. F. Merrell is chosen treasurer. The treasurer reported cash on hand $11.94 and that the indebtedness of the church is about $170.00. The conference then raised $60.00 due for 1890. At the April conference, the hour for holding service was changed from 12 M. to 11 A.M. At the May meeting, the treasurer reported $18.70 received since last report. Paid on salary 1892, $10.00; on salary for 1891, $5.00; balance on hand, $3.70.

Treasurer's report for June 1892. Cash from last report $3.70, collected $4.00, paid sexton $5.00, balance $2.70.

There is no record for the July conference 1892.

At the August conference, the treasurer reported collected $101.58; paid on pastor's salary, 1891, $71.33 and paid on 1892 salary, $28.25. After raising $83.00, the amount pledged for 1892, the delegates to the Association are instructed to pledge $10.00 for State Missions, Associational Missions $35.00, Foreign Missions $10.00, Home Missions $5.00, Education $5.00, Total $65.00. October services to be protracted. In 1892, at the September meeting, the delegates to the Association reported a harmonious, well attended session, and that the Association meets with Mocksville church in 1893. This being the regular time for the selection of a pastor for next year, Pastor Newton retired from the house and the conference by ballot, elected Eld. S. F. Conrad, and Bro. D. R. Davis is to notify him of his election and ascertain whether he will accept, and if so, upon what

terms. Treasurer reports for October 1892. Received $61.40 for salary, and $9.30 on pledges to Association.

The October meeting was protracted for nearly two weeks. Eld. N. S. Jones, Pastor of Salisbury Baptist Church, aided Pastor Newton in the services. There were thirty-six persons received into the fellowship of the church. On December 29, 1892, Brother F. A. Foster resigned as clerk and Bro. J. E. Alderman is elected clerk for the next year, and Bro. A. M. Garwood is elected treasurer.

CHAPTER XIV

Elder S. F. Conrad's Pastorate

On January 21, 1893, Elder S. F. Conrad arrives and begain his services as pastor of the church and preaches from text: Matthew 6:33. Brethren C. M. Cope, J. W. McCulloh, and H. N. Foster are chosen as delegates to the Union meeting to be held at Eatons on January 27-29, 1893, and are instructed to invite the next Union to meet with Fork Church. The treasurer reported $335.38 received and paid out during 1892.

The buying of the lot of land lying South of the church lot and east of the graveyard lot is renewed and a committee is appointed to buy the same of A. H. Stewart, at $20.00 per acre, he donating one-half an acre to the church. On Sunday morning March 26, 1893, Pastor Conrad preached a missionary sermon, after which a collection of $18.84 is taken as a Centennail Offering for Missions.

Although the deacons have apportioned the amounts due by the church among its members who had failed to support the church and tried to collect the same, they failed, as all attempts to collect from those who do not do so willingly, fail. Bro. J. C. Carter was employed as sexton at a salary of $18.00 per year. At the May conference, the committee to buy land have bargained for the same but have not paid for it. Upon the insistence of Pastor Conrad, the conference raised the money and the committee are instructed to have deed made to trustees of the church. This conference also raised $57.87 on balance due Eld. J. B. Newton and also $9.75 on amount due Eld. Redwine.

A committee of four with the pastor are appointed to prepare program and invite speakers for centennial exercise of Fork Church which will be held on the 5th Sunday in July of this year to celegrate the end of her one hundred years of work. On June 24, 1893, Breth. D. V. Davis, Samuel Cope, and C. M. Cope were appointed delegates to the Union meeting, which will meet

with this church on July 28-29. A committee was also appointed to make arrangements for a singing school to be free to all who will attend. At the July service on Sunday, Eld. C. S. Cashwell, pastor of Mocksville church, and Pastor Conrad exchanged pulpits.

Centennial

July 30, 1893. The program of Exercise follows: Early Baptists in Davie County—Prof. John T. Alderman of Reidsville, N. C. Baptist progress for the last 100 years—Jacob Stewart, Mocksville, N. C. and Eld. J. A. Spaight, Asheville, N. C. Baptist and Sunday School—Mr. T. S. Sprinkle, Winston, N. C. What Fork Church ought to be in 100 years—Eld. C. S. Cashwell, Mocksville, N. C.

There was a very large congregation assembled and the speakers were all present and the entire program was discussed in such manner as to enlighten all present as to the past and stimulate them to greater service in the future. At the close of the exercise a collection of $52.18 was gathered for Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, and paid to Eld. S. W. Hall, Treasurer of the Orphanage, who was present and took part in the exercise of the day. Jacob Stewart was secretary of Centennial Program.

The August meeting 1893 was protracted. Eld. J. T. Jenkins of Wilmington assisted the pastor during the week and thirty members were added to the church as a result of the meeting. It is recorded that Eld. Jenkins was especially severe in his denunciation of intemperance and the manufacture of spirituous liquors. Breth. W. F. Merrell, Samuel Foster, J. C. Carter, and W. A. Sain were appointed delegates to the Association, which met at Mocksville at the usual time.

The delegates were not to pledge over $75.00 to the different objects for next year. Summary of letter to the Association: Baptized 60, received by letter 4, restored 4, total 68; dismissed by letter 7, excluded 4, died 4, total 15. Financial: Pastor's salary $200.00; inci-

dentals $81.60, minute fund $2.07, State and Associational Missions $25.00, Education $3.00, Home Missions $3.00, Foreign Missions $18.84, Orphanage $53.75, total $387.26.

On September 23, 1893, the delegates to the Association report that the attendance was sparse on account of high waters, but the spirit of the meeting was excellent. At the October meeting, 1894, the committee to buy lot of land report that the money has been raised and the deed made to Breth. B. S. Merrell, A. M. Garwood and Nathaniel Hendrix, the church trustees. Bro. J. E. Alderman resigned as clerk, and Bro. W. F. Merrell was elected to the clerkship for the balance of the year. At the December conference in 1893, Eld. J. B. Newton is present and asks the privilege of taking a collection to pay for a church lot at Advance. Granted. Amount received is not recorded.

Bro. J. C. Carter resigned as sexton at the January meeting in 1894. Bro. A. M. Garwood was elected treasurer and Bro. W. F. Merrell clerk for the ensuing year.

The conference at this meeting elected Bro. W. F. Merrell Superintendent of the Sunday School and Bro. A. M. Garwood as assistant Supt., Brother J. C. Carter, Secretary and Treasurer. Pastor takes a collection of $12.80 to supply the school with literature. This is the second record, if the writer remembers correctly, that the Sunday School is shown to be a part of the church work. In 1894 at the March conference, Bro. J. C. Carter is paid the balance due him for services as sexton and was elected for 1894 at a salary of $18.00 per year.

In 1894, the May service on Saturday was devoted to a Sunday School Celebration. "The Bible and our Sunday Schools" was discussed by Dr. J. N. Stallings; "How Shall We Increase Their Usefulness," by Eld. Geo. L. Merrell; "Some Hindrances to Schools," Eld. J. B. Newton, also Declamations and Recitations by the members of Mission School at Smithfield.

At the June meeting 1894, Bro. E. W. Lassister and family were received by letter from Piney Church. Bro.

Lassiter being a deacon of that church was elected a deacon of Fork Church.

According to appointment, the protracted meeting began on 3rd Sunday in August. Eld. N. S. Jones of Salisbury aided in the meeting. While there were 19 conversions, only four were added to the church. Breth. A. M. Garwood, T. I. Caudell and W. F. Merrell were chosen delegates to the Association. On Sunday, August 26, 1894, Eld. B. K. Mason was examined and ordained to the full work of the ministry, by Elders S. F. Conrad, J. B. Newton and J. F. Redwine, acting as a presbytery. Eld. Conrad preached the sermon, Eld. Newton delivered the Bible.

During the September conference, Bro. A. M. Garwood reported that the churches were all represented at the Association, the discussion excellent and full of interest, the Executive Board out of debt. The new board for next year: Breth. S. J. Tatum, L. K. Lazenby, J. B. Holman, J. C. Turner, J. L. Tatum, and W. F. Merrell.

Bro. C. M. Cope was clerk pro tem at the October meeting and failed to file minutes with the clerk who was absent. On November 24, 1894, Bro. D. V. Davis was elected a trustee of the academy property belonging to this church in the place of H. C. Ratts, deceased.

Sunday School is reorganized by electing W. F. Merrell Superintendent, and J. C. Carter Secretary and Treasurer for 1895. A collection for support of the Sunday School. At the February meeting 1895, the following resolutions were offered by Bro. A. M. Garwood and adopted: Whereas, drunkenness and the use of strong drink is a growing evil in this community and has become a constant menace to the peace and harmony of the church; and whereas, the church has sought by a mild and moderate discipline to reform offenders and retain them in the church fellowship; and whereas, such course of action has not mitigated this evil, and the causes for discipline have very largely increased: Resolved: 1st, That the honor and dignity of the cause of Christ demands that we withdraw fellowship from any and all members upon reliable evidence of their being

intoxicated or of their being known to be habitual drinkers of intoxicants as a beverage. Resolved: 2nd, That any members of this church who knows of others being guilty of this or any other gross sin and does not seek to bring such offense to the knowledge of the spiritual committee shall be deemed equally guilty with the offender, and subject to the discipline of the church.

The adoption of these resolutions clearly shows a wholesome growth of sentiment in favor of temperance and the determination of the church to stamp out this evil.

At the March meeting 1895, Brother T. I. Caudell, J. C. Carter and L. M. Hege were appointed to represent this church in a Sunday School convention to be held with Farmington Church beginning on Friday before the 5th Sunday in this month. There was no preaching April as the pastor was absent. At the May conference 1895, Bro. M. F. Foster is allowed to hold his commencement exercises in the church.

The June conference 1895 grants the pastor three months vacation, and a committee was appointed to secure the services of Eld. S. J. Beeker as supply. He holds the July service. On August 24, 1895, Breth. M. F. Foster, J. W. McCulloh, T. I. Caudell and J. A. Allen were chosen delegates to the South Yadkin Association, which meets at Salisbury church this year. At the next conference the delegates reported a pleasant and harmonious session and that the Association meets with Yadkin Valley Church in 1896.

Elder Conrad is again unanimously called to the pastorate of the church at the September conference in 1895.

The October meeting is protracted to Wednesday night by Eld. C. C. Haymore. Nine persons joined the church.

Pastor Conrad accepts the call to serve the church as pastor for 1896 at the November conference.

At the December conference 1895, the treasurer reported total amount received and paid out $252.69, and that the church owes present pastor $125.66 on this

year's salary. Treasurer Garwood then resigned and his resignation is accepted.

Breth. W. T. Garwood, M. F. Foster, and W. H. Davis were appointed delegates to the Union meeting to be held at New Hope Church on the 5th Sunday of this month, and were instructed to invite the next session to meet with this church. At the next conference Bro. W. T. Garwood reports that the attendance at the Union was small and that the next session meets with this church on the 5th Sunday in May. At the February meeting Pastor Conrad and Eld. B. K. Mason pastor at Advance exchange pulpit.

On March 21, 1896, Bro. F. P. Ratts is employed as sexton at $20.00 per annum. Breth. P. J. Cope, F. P. Ratts, and P. J. Caudell were chosen delegates to the Union which meets here on next Friday. The Union met with this church on Friday May 29, and followed published program. Eld. J. L. Vipperman preached on Friday at 8:00 P.M., Eld. Myers on Saturday at 8:00 P.M., Dr. J. N. Stallings at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, Eld. J. H. Rich at 2:00 P.M. and Eld. S. J. Beeker at 8:00 P.M.

Eld. S. J. Beeker was secured as supply for the summer.

Delegates to the Association this year were Breth. F. P. Ratts, P. S. Stewart, O. Foster, and John Minor.

The protracted began on the 3rd Sunday in August. Elders J. M. Bennett and H. Morton assist in the meeting which continues through the week. At the regular conference in August, Eld. H. Morton is asked to preach at next meeting and accepts.

September 23, 1896, Elder H. Morton preached at both services.

At the October meeting a letter was received from Pastor Conrad saying he could no longer serve as pastor. The conference then called Eld. S. J. Beeker to serve for the balance of the year, and the salary is fixed at $125.00 per year.

Eld. Conrad is present and preached at the November service. This closes his pastorate of the church.

CHAPTER XV

Elder S. J. Beeker's Pastorate

Elder S. J. Beeker was present and preached at both services in December 1896. He held services on Saturday and Sunday in January 1897.

The following officers for Sunday School are elected for the year: Bro. W. F. Merrell, Superintendent; Bro. T. I. Caudell, Assistant Superintendent; and Bro. F. P. Ratts, Secretary and Treasurer.

At the April conference the time of meeting was changed from the 4th to the 1st Sunday and Saturday before so that the Pastor Beeker may serve Advance church on 4th Sunday.

The annual protracted meeting is held, beginning on August 3, 1897. Eld. C. J. F. Anderson assister Pastor Beeker in the meeting which was continued until Thursday night when five were received for baptism. Breth. W. T. Garwood, J. M. Davis, A. M. Garwood, and J. C. Carter were chosen to represent the church in the South Yadkin Association which convenes with Gay's Chapel Church on Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1897.

Summary of church letter: Gained, received by baptism 1; received by letter 1; total gain 2; Lost by letter 5, excluded 9, died 3, total 17; 79 males, 162 females, total 241.

Elder Beeker is elected pastor for 1898 by ballot at the September conference. On December 5, 1897, he accepts the call, agreeing to serve as pastor and pay pledges to Associational Missions for the amount subscribed for this purpose, about $150.00. Officers for the Sunday School were elected for 1898. Supt. W. F. Merrell, Assistant Supt. A. N. Foster, Secretary and Treasurer, F. P. Ratts.

The church pays the balance due former pastor Conrad for 1895, $54.28, and paid present pastor $70.10.

Bro. F. P. Ratts is re-elected treasurer and W. F. Merrell clerk for the ensuing year. Pastor Beeker was sick of typhoid fever and was absent at June meeting in 1898. Eld. J. H. Rich filled the appointment.

Eld. J. H. Rich of Farmington, N. C. fills the pulpit again at July meeting as Pastor Beeker is still sick. Associational letter: Baptized 5, received by letter 5, restored 1, gain 11; dismissed by letter 5, excluded 2, died 5, loss 12; present membership 240.

Financial: Associational Mission $25.00, State Missions $7.50, Home Missions $2.50, Foreign Missions $5.00, Education $5.00, Orphanage $15.00, Minute fund $1.50. Breth. F. P. Ratts, A. M. Garwood, W. W. Wilson, and J. C. Carter were sent as delegates to the South Yadkin Association which met with Jerusalem Church on September 1, 1898.

Brethren P. Hendrix, John G. Foster, Samuel Foster, and A. H. Stewart were appointed to represent this church in the Union meeting held here on 5th Sunday in October, 1898. At the November conference, Eld. Beeker accepts as pastor, provided the church pays her pledges. The annual protracted meeting was held on 4th Sunday and week following. Eld. M. E. Parish of Salisbury aided in the meeting.

At the December conference, Bro. Chalmers Williams was employed as sexton at a salary of $18.00 per year to be paid quarterly. Bro. H. L. Foster presents the church a pair of chairs, through Bro. J. W. McCulloh.

Pastor Beeker resigned as pastor of Fork Church at the December conference, the resignation to take effect at once, and the church accepted his resignation and appointed a committee to procure some preacher to fill the next appointment.

The committee failed to secure anyone to fill the appointment at either January, February, or March meetings.

CHAPTER XVI

Elder J. M. Bennett's Pastorate

Eld. J. M. Bennett is present at April meeting and preaches on Saturday and Sunday. At this conference Eld. Bennett was elected pastor for balance of 1899. He accepted the call and began his work as pastor.

Elder Bennett began as pastor of Fork at the May conference 1899. He preached at both services and the church observed the supper of our Lord. After service on Sunday and Eld. Bennett preached again at night. Former pastor Beeker was paid the balance due him on salary for 1898.

At the June conference the collections of pastor's salary was separated from the collection of mission funds and a committee for raising each of these funds was appointed.

Pastor Bennett preached on Saturday and Sunday of the July conference. On Sunday afternoon and at night, Children's Day exercises were observed. At the August conference, Breth. A. M. Garwood, F. P. Ratts, W. T. Burton, and F. M. Carter were appointed to represent the church in the South Yadkin Association to be held at Society Baptist Church in Iredell County, North Carolina.

There was no preaching on Saturday, September 3, 1899, as pastor was attending the Association. This is the time for the protracted meeting and pastor preaches on Sunday at 11:00 A.M., at 2:00 P.M. and at 7:00 P.M. The meeting continued through the week. Elders C. M. Cope and E. W. Turner aid in the meeting. Nine members were added to the church during the meeting.

On Sunday October 1, 1899, Eld. Bennett is again unanimously elected as pastor for 1900. At the January meeting, Pastor Bennett proposed to preach two Sundays in each month for all over his present salary the church feels disposed to pay. The proposition was unanimously accepted. Bro. F. P. Ratts was continued as treasurer and W. F. Merrell as clerk.

At the January conference 1900, the church took another unusual step: A committee was appointed to see the parties who were illicitly selling intoxicants, and

if necessary, hire counsel and prosecute these violators at the expense of the church. On Sunday conference was convened and $9.16, the amount the church owed was raised and the church is completly out of debt.

At the March meeting, the time for holding services was changed from the 1st and 2nd Sundays to the 3rd and 4th Sundays. Conference to be held on Saturday before the 4th Sunday.

At the May meeting, the committee to prosecute retailers report that they have employed counsel and prosecuted three violators and had them bound to court and the counsel's fee is paid.

On August 29, 1900, Breth. F. P. Ratts, J. C. Carter, Thomas I. Caudell and J. C. Carter were selected delegates to the South Yadkin Association. Eld. Geo. L. Merrell is present and preaches on Sunday. The pledges were raised and the letter to the Association was read and approved.

At the September and October conference, another attempt was made to form a Field and settle a pastor in the county, but the effort failed.

The November meeting was protracted. Eld. M. E. Parish of Salisbury, aided the pastor in conducting the meeting, which closed on Friday. The preaching during this meeting was mainly along doctrinal lines. Two members were added to the church.

On November 11, 1900, Eld. Bennett was again chosen pastor. He declined to accept, and a committee was appointed to find a minister that may be secured as pastor for 1901. The conference invites Eld. Bennett to preach at the January meeting and he promises to do so. Elder Bennett failed to attend the Saturday service in January, but preached on Sunday.

Elder S. J. Kirk of Yadkin County preached at the February services.

The committee to find an available minister for pastor reported a called meeting on March 16, 1901, that either Eld. S. J. Kirk or Eld. Chas. H. Utley may be secured as pastor. The committee was discharged and the calling of a pastor postponed until the next regular meeting.

CHAPTER XVII

Elder Charles H. Utley's Pastorate

At the conference on March 23, 1901, the following resolutions were adopted: "Whereas according to the records of this church for the past 15 years, neither has this church been able to secure or retain more acceptable ministers as pastor, nor has the Peace and Harmony of the membership been promoted by the custom of holding annual elections for pastor, Therefore; resolved: That this church return to the custom practiced for the first one hundred years of her history, to wit: The calling of a pastor for an indefinite period of time, requiring either pastor or church to give 3 months notice before the call shall terminate."

The conference then elects Eld. Chas. H. Utley of Elkin, N. C., as her pastor, and agrees to pay him a salary of $150.00 per annum. Eld. Utley is present at the April meeting and accepts the pastorate care of the church. The pastor preached at the May services, but is absent at the June meeting on account of high water. On July 21, 1901, Brethren F. P. Ratts and J. R. Williams, Jr. are elected trustees of the church property to succeed Breth. B. S. Merrell and Nathaniel Hendrix, deceased.

Pastor Utley attended the August service after being absent at the two former meetings. Breth. A. M. Garwood, W. F. Merrell, Tillett Hendrix, and J. R. Williams, Jr. were appointed delegates to the South Yadkin association, which met at Mooresville Baptist Church on last Thursday in August.

The August meeting in 1901 was continued until the following Sunday night. Pastor Utley preaching each day at 2:00 P.M. and at night. At the service on Sunday night, 15 persons were received as members.

The Union meeting of the South Yadkin Association met with Fork Church on Friday before the 5th Sunday in June 1902. Eld. M. E. Parish preached the

introductory sermon on Saturday. The discussions were excellent and the attendance above the average.

On August 16, 1902, Breth. A. E. Myers, A. M. Garwood, T. I. Caudell, and J. R. Williams, Jr. were appointed to represent the church in the next session of the Association and were instructed to invite the next session to meet with this church in 1903.

The delegates to the Association in 1902 reported that Dr. J. N. Stallings was chosen moderator and S. J. Tatum, clerk. The usual amounts were pledged and that the next Association will meet with Beulah Baptist Church, west of Statesville, N. C.

Breth. A. M. Garwood, W. F. Merrell, and Gray J. Sheets were delegates to the Union held at Trading Ford Church on Friday before 5th Sunday in November, 1902, and A. E. Myers was delegate to the N. C. Baptist State Convention held at Winston-Salem, N. C.

The protracted meeting began on the 4th Sunday and continued until Tuesday after the 1st Sunday in December.

There were 27 persons joining the church at the close of this meeting. The above meeting being continued into December, there was no conference at the regular time in this month.

On Saturday, January 17, 1903, Bro. J. R. Williams was re-elected treasurer; Bro. Merrell, clerk; and Bro. W. H. Proctor was employed as sexton, at a salary of $13.00.

At the April meeting, 1903, the committee to repair the roof report work done at $1.25.

From the February meeting 1903 to the August meeting, the time of the conferences were almost completely used in dealing with delinquents and cases of discipline.

Brethren Geo. A. Everhart, J. R. Williams, T. I. Caudell, and P. L. Foster were chosen at the August

conference as delegates to the Association which convenes with Beulah Church this year. None of these delegates attend.

Pastor Utley resigned as pastor of Fork Church at the September conference to take effect at the end of the year, 1903. The resignation was accepted and a committee appointed to select and recommend a suitable minister for pastor of this church.

On October 10, 1903, Breth. A. M. Garwood, H. M. Foster, J. C. Carter, J. M. Davis, A. E. Myers, T. I. Caudell, and W. F. Merrell are appointed to examine the House and report the needed repairs at the next conference.

There was no conference in November and the meeting was not protracted, as there was small pox in the community.

The committee to examine the church house reported at the December conference in 1903 that the repairs needed would cost about $500.00. The committee was continued and Bro. J. R. Bailey was added to it. The sermon on Sunday at 11:00 A.M. closed Elder Utley's term as pastor of Fork Church.

SUMMARY

Elder Utley began as pastor of Fork Baptist Church at the April meeting in 1901 and served as pastor until the end of 1903. During this time he demonstrated very fine ability, both as a preacher and a pastor, leaving the church in excellent shape, both spiritually and financially. While he was pastor, fifty members were added to the church, twenty-two dismissed by letter, and six were excluded, total membership, 229.

CHAPTER XVIII

Elder R. D. Haymore and Elder O. J. Martin Supply as Pastor

At the January appointment in 1904, Eld. E. W. Turner, by request of pastoral committee, preaches and serves as moderator of conference. Bro. J. R. Williams, Jr. is re-elected as treasurer for 1904; and Bro. W. F. Merrell is re-elected clerk. The conference decided not to call a pastor at present and instructed the pastoral committee to confer with committees from the churches on this side of the county and try to form a field that will give a pastor full work.

By request of the committee, Eld. R. D. Haymore of Mt. Airy, N. C. preaches at the February meeting. The church then called Eld. Haymore as supply until the church secures a regular pastor and he accepts at a salary of $12.50 per month.

Eld. Joseph Aden supplies for Pastor Haymore at the April meeting. At the May meeting, Breth. A. M. Garwood, W. F. Merrell and J. B. Bailey was appointed a building committee to repair the church house. Eld. J. H. Rich of Greensboro, preached on Sunday June 26, 1904, by request of Eld. Haymore.

The building committee was discontinued at the August conference in 1906 because the work could not be done before the meeting of the Association here on Thursday before the 1st Sunday in September. Brethren J. B. Bailey, J. R. Williams, Jr., J. C. Carter, and S. Arthur Foster were elected delegates to represent this church in the Association.

The South Yadkin Association convened with Fork Church at the time mentioned. Dr. J. N. Stallings, moderator; Bro. S. J. Tatum, clerk; Eld. J. M. Haymore, Pastor of Spencer Church, preached the introductory sermon. The following visitors were present. Eld. J. S. Farmer, representing "The Recorder"; Eld. S. F. Conrad, "The North Carolina Baptist"; Bro. Archibald

Johnson, The Orphanage; Eld. Livingstone Johnson, State Missions. The churches were well represented and the session was a success. The next session of the Association goes to Spencer Church.

At the conference held on September 25, 1904, the committee appointed to confer with like committees from Advance and Farmington churches, report that "It was the judgment of the joint committee that these churches form a field and locate a pastor on this side of the county. By the unanimous vote of the conference Fork Church agreed to unite in forming the pastorate, and that this church call a pastor for one-half of his time and pay one half of his salary.

After sermon by Eld. O. J. Martin of Yadkin County, N. C. on Saturday of the October meeting, the church extends a unanimous call to Eld. E. L. Weston to become pastor of the church.

On second Sunday in November, 1904, Elders V. M. and S. D. Swaim were by invitation to hold a protracted meeting at this church. Eld. V. M. Swaim was sick and could not come. Eld. S. D. Swaim came on Monday and continued the meeting until the next Sunday, when seven persons were baptized.

Bro. O. J. Martin, by invitation, preaches at the November meeting, and is then asked to supply for the church until our pastor, Elder E. L. Weston, finishes his course at the Seminary. On January 19, 1905, the following brethren were elected as officers of the Sunday School for the year: W. F. Merrell, Superintendent; J. F. Carter, Assistant Superintendent; L. K. Jones, Secretary and Treasurer. The present clerk and treasurer were re-elected. J. L. Carter was employed as sexton for $15.00 per year.

CHAPTER XIX

Elder E. L. Weston's Pastorate

On Saturday May 20, 1905, Eld. O. J. Martin preaches. Our pastor, Eld. E. L. Weston having arrived, preaches at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday. The Lord's Supper was administered by Elders Weston and Martin.

Pastor E. L. Weston preaches on Saturday and Sunday, June 1905, and on the first Sunday in July, and on Saturday, July 15, 1905. On Sunday, Eld. C. S. Cashwell, Pastor of Mocksville Church and Eld. Weston exchange pulpits.

On July 15, 1905, Brethern J. R. Williams, Jr., A M. Garwood, Geo. E. Merrell and S. A. Foster were appointed delegates to the Association and instructed to pledge $100.00 to the objects of the convention.

The August meeting was protracted. Pastor Weston preached at 11:00 A.M. and at 2:00 A.M. each day for a week. There were 27 persons received into the fellowship of the church as a result of this meeting.

On Saturday, October 14, 1905, Pastor Weston appointed the following brethren a building committee to plan for the repair of the present house or if found advisable to plan for a new building, to wit: W. F. Merrell, A. M. Garwood, J. C. Carter, J. M. Davis, and L. C. Pack.

At the November conference the building committee presents a plan for remodeling the church, but no action is taken.

At the January meeting it is announced, following the plan outlined by the committee, that 28,000 M, shingles are on the yard, and $61.58 paid on them. The clerk and treasurer were re-elected for 1906.

On May 19, 1906, the committee appointed to take subscriptions to cover the "budget" for salary and benevolences, reported that they had failed to raise the

necessary amount. The committee was discharged and a committee was appointed to apportion the necessary amount among the membership. By a rising vote, Br. Merrell, principal of the school, was allowed to hold the closing exercise in the church building.

Brethren W. T. Garwood, J. F. Carter, A. G. Carter, and E. L. Weston were appointed delegates to the Association, which meets with Bethel Church, Iredell County, N. C. on August 30, 1906.

The August meeting 1906 was continued through the week. Eld. V. M. Swaim aids the pastor in the services. As a result 15 persons are received into the fellowship of the church.

On October 20, 1906, the pastor announced that there exists a difference of opinion as to whether it is better to repair this building or to build a new one, and asks the conference to instruct the building committee in the matter as both plans have been presented. By a unanimous vote the church decides to build a new one.

Eld. Geo. L. Merrell, who was here on a visit, preached on Saturday and Sunday, at the December meeting in 1906. At a called conference on Sunday after preaching, the church votes to continue twice a month services. Pastor Weston then requested the members to haul logs to the mill for lumber for the new house.

Bro. John Beck of Pine Church was present at the February meeting in 1907 and by request of pastor, he preaches on Saturday, text, Exodus 10:24.

By request, Bro. A. M. Garwood, is excused from serving on the building committee and Bro. J. P. Burton was appointed in his stead.

Pastor Weston preaches at both services on March 15 and 16, 1907, and at the close of service on Sunday, he announced that the brethren are requested to meet on next Tuesday to tear away the old building in order to begin work on the new house. This was the last

service held in the old building and the church held services in the Academy while the new house was being built.

At the April meeting, Pastor Weston announces that he needs funds, labor, and hauling for the new church house.

Brethren H. M. Foster, D. F. Potts, R. I. Foster, and A. M. Garwood were selected as delegates to the South Yadkin Association which meets at Farmington this year.

On the first Sunday in August 1907, Pastor Weston preached the first sermon in the new church, the floor having been laid and the seats hauled out from Lexington and placed during the previous week.

The Saturday service on August 14, 1907 was held in the Academy. At the close of the service Pastor Weston requested the brethren meet at the new church this evening and arrange the seats and prepare for holding our protracted meeting in the new house, beginning on tomorrow. Pastor Weston preached at 11:00 A.M. and Eld. Bell of Cooleemee at 2:00 P.M. Eld. J. M. Dunaway of Spencer came on Monday and aided in the meeting, leaving on Friday. The pastor continues the services until Saturday, when there were sixteen members added to the church.

At the October conference 1907 Eld. E. L. Weston offers his resignation to take effect at the end of the year. His resignation is accepted. A pastoral committee was appointed to confer with the churches composing the field in regard to securing a pastor. On motion Eld. W. R. Davis is requested to come and preach at Fork on next Tuesday night. Elder Davis was present and preached according to request. On November 17, 1907 the committee to confer with the other churches composing the field, report that they recommend that this church call Eld. W. R. Davis as pastor for one-half of his time at a salary of $250.00 and one-half of his house rent, and Eld. Davis accepts the call.

Summary

With the December meeting, Eld. Weston's service as pastor of Fork Church closed. His pastorate has been a pleasant and profitable one. By his diligent services and leadership the church has an excellent new house, size 40′ x 60′, with an anteroom in front 14′ x 14′ and a tower over it 70′ high. There are two Sunday School rooms, 18′ x 16′ at the back of the building, with a Gothic Alcove between the doors to these rooms, for the pulpit. The church owes Brethren Foster and Garwood a debt of only $150.00, on this magnificent building.

This was a fine achievement for a single year. During this two and one-half years 78 members were added and twenty-eight were lost. The work of the church was left in excellent shape.

There were 78 members added to the membership, 25 dismissed by letter and 3 were excluded during the two and one-half years Elder Weston served Fork as pastor, and the work of the church is in fine condition.

Eld. Weston, as collector and treasurer for the building committee, collected and expended $735.65, which plus the $150.00 still due makes the new house cost $885.65 in cash in addition to all the material and labor contributed by individuals. A wonderful achievement for a single year.

CHAPTER XX

Elder W. R. Davis' Pastorate

On January 18, 1908, Eld. W. R. Davis began his work as pastor of Fork Church by sermon from Matthew 4:18-19-20.

The present clerk and the treasurer were re-elected for the year. Eld. Weston is present and reports $735.65 collected and expended on the new church. The report is received and he is discharged as collector. He then turned all accounts and receipts over to pastor Davis.

Bro. J. N. Wyatt was duly elected as a trustee to the academy property to succeed Samuel Foster, deceased.

At the April meeting, 1908, the monthly calling of the roll is discontinued.

Brethren S. B. Garwood, O. G. Allen, H. M. Foster, and W. F. Merrell were the delegates to the Association which met at Statesville Baptist Church on September 3-5, 1908. The delegates reported a good session of the Association and a slight increase in pledges.

The church votes on September 19, 1908, to buy an organ for use of the church.

Eld. E. L. Weston, our former pastor, is present and by request of pastor, preaches on Saturday. On Sunday Eld. Thomas Caudle of Coolemee preached as pastor Davis is aiding in a meeting there.

The November meeting was protracted for 10 days. Eld. John A. Summy aids the pastor in the services. Eleven members were added during the meeting.

Brethren S. B. Garwood, W. F. Merrell, and C. H. Foster were delegates to the Union which met with Jerusalem church. Pastor and delegates report the meeting at Jerusalem as being above the average and

that the next Union will meet with Fork Church on Friday before the fifth Sunday in May 1909.

On the first Sunday in January 1909, the Sunday School officers were elected. W. F. Merrell, Superintendent; A. G. Carter, Assistant Supt., and Mrs. Notie B. Williams, Secretary and Treasurer. At the regular January conference the former clerk and treasurer are continued for the ensuing year, and Bro. J. R. Williams was employed as sexton at a salary of $25.00 per year.

On March 20, 1909, pastor Davis reported $115.00 collected on balance due on new building and also that he had collected and paid $45.54 on the organ.

Breth. W. F. Merrell, S. B. Garwood, H. M. Foster and J. P. Burton were the delegates to the South Yadkin Association, which met at Advance church on Thursday before the first Sunday in September, 1909. There was no preaching at Fork on first Sunday as pastor was at the Association.

At the regular conference in September 1909, a committee was appointed to look into the advisibility of building two more Sunday School rooms to the church.

The October meeting was protracted. Eld. E. L. Weston assisted the pastor in the services during the week. Seven persons joined the church as the result of this meeting.

A committee was appointed at the December conference to collect funds to paint the church house. The conference granted pastor Davis leave of absence from the January service, so that he might visit his father, who lives in Tennessee.

The May and June services were held in the Academy, as the church was being painted on the inside.

At the July conference, the painting committee reported the painting done and that a balance of $52.05 was due on material and $16.40 on the board of painters. A collection of $34.50 was raised on this debt. At the

next conference the committee said a few dollars were still due on painting.

The delegates to the Association in 1910 were: Brethren W. F. Merrell, S. B. Garwood, E. Ray Williams, and A. N. Foster.

The 1st Sunday service in September was protracted. Eld. Chas. H. Utley helps pastor during the week. Thirteen members were received as a result of the meeting.

The "Budget System" for the collection of Mission Funds was adopted at the conference on November 19, 1910, and a committee was appointed to distribute cards and collect the amounts pledged.

On Sunday, December 18, 1910, after the sermon by pastor Davis, a collection was raised to pay balance on seats and carpet, but not quite enough was raised.

The present clerk and treasurer were continued for 1911. Brother J. R. Williams was employed as sexton, at a salary of $35.00.

At a conference on the first Sunday in June 1911, the first Sunday is selected as the time to begin a protracted meeting, and it was also decided to hold a service at the beginning of the meeting to dedicate this church building to God's service. Eld. W. R. Davis, W. F. Merrell, S. B. Garwood, and J. R. Foster were appointed to prepare a program for the service and to invite a minister to preach the dedicatory sermon.

In 1911, the Association met with Mocksville Baptist Church and Brethren W. A. Sain, S. B. Garwood, J. C. Carter, and W. F. Merrell represented Fork Church at this session.

On the first Sunday in October, 1911, Eld. Davis offers his resignation as pastor to take effect at the end of the year. At the next meeting his resignation was accepted and a committee was appointed to confer with the other churches of the field in regard to calling a

pastor. A motion to change to once a month service was lost and the committee is instructed to offer a salary of $250.00.

Bro. A. Gray Carter preaches at the November meeting. The pastoral committee have nothing to report. Pastor Davis preaches on both Saturday and Sunday of the December meeting. The committee still have nothing definite in regard to a pastor.

Summary

Pastor Davis served the church for three years. During this time there was an organ bought and paid for, as an aid in the song service; the balance on the church debt was paid off; the seats were finished; the house painted and there the new and attractive church building was dedicated on the first Sunday in August, 1911. There were 29 members joined the church, while he was pastor, 14 were dismissed by letter, and 9 were excluded.

Elder Davis improved greatly in his ability to preach the gospel while here and there was a healthy growth in the spiritual and financial strength of the church during his three years of ardent service.

CHAPTER XXI

Elder S. W. Hall's Pastorate

The committee appointed to confer with the other churches composing the field reported at the January meeting, and recommended that this church call Eld. S. W. Hall as pastor of this church. The conference postponed the calling of a pastor and invited Eld. Hall to be present and preach at Fork Church on first Sunday in February, 1912. Eld. Hall was present and preached at the appointment. At a call conference on February 10, 1912, the church extends a unanimous call to Eld. S. W. Hall to become the pastor of Fork Church for an indefinite time, at a salary of $300.00 per year. Elder Hall accepts the pastorate and is to begin the first Sunday in April.

The monthly roll call is revived with the same regulations as to absentee as were formerly in force and the same apportionment to be in force as during last year.

Elder Hall is present on the first Sunday in April 1912 and begins his pastorate by preaching from Eph. 6:1.

At the regular April conference Bro. W. A. Sain is appointed a member of the Financial committee, in the place of Bro. W. D. Mason, who died since our last meeting.

Brethren J. N. Wyatt, J. C. Carter, W. A. Sain, and W. F. Merrell were appointed at the regular conference in May, a committee to formulate a plan by which the grave yard may be enclosed.

The Association met with this church on Thursday August 29, 1912, and brethren A. N. Foster, W. A. Sain, A. M. Garwood, S. B. Garwood, and H. M. Foster were the delegates. The Association was a success. Eld. Livingston Johnson preached on Sunday at 11:00 A.M. and G. C. Ivey at 3:00 P.M.

The grave yard committee are instructed to proceed to raise funds to enclose the grave yard plot.

At a call meeting on Sunday January 19, 1913, the church unanimously elected Bro. John R. Williams as choister for both Sunday School and Church worship. At another called conference on February 3, 1913, the church decided to hold a Sunday School Institute on the third Sunday in June and Bro. E. L. Middleton, State Sunday School Secretary, was invited to be present and conduct the Institute.

On request of Bro. A. Gray Carter for ordination as a minister pastor Hall was asked to invite a competent presbytery to examine Bro Carter and if found orthodox and qualified to ordain him to the full work of the gospel ministry.

The present clerk and the Treasurer are reelected for 1913. The Treasurer reports that during the last year he received $441.22 and paid out $412.82, leaving a balance of $28.40 on hand.

On May 19, 1913, Bro. June F. Carter requests an ordination and his request was granted and the 3rd Sunday in June as the time fixed.

A Sunday School Institute takes the place of the regular Saturday service in June 1913. Bro. Middleton is here and conducts the meeting. Eld. Chas. H. Utley discussed Evangelism in the Sunday School and for want of time Bro. Wlison will speak on tomorrow. Brother Middleton addresses the Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday morning. At 11:00 A.M. Brethren A. Gray Carter, and June F. Carter were both ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry, after being examined by a presbytery, consisting of Eld. S. W. Hall, Walter E. Wilson, and Chas. H. Utley. Eld. Chas. H. Utley preached the sermon. Eld. Walter E. Wilson delivered the charge and Eld. S. W. Hall presented each of them a Bible, the gift of the church. Benediction by Eld. June F. Carter. After noon Eld. Wilson addresses the Institute on reaching the Masses.

On Sunday, July 19, 1913, a Baptist Young People's Union was organized and Brother J. R. Foster was

chosen President. A committee was selected to look into the matter of enlarging the Sunday School rooms and report at next meeting. The committee reports at next meeting. The committee reports that there is need of two additional rooms and they recommend that these room 20'x30' be built on each side of the church. Motion to adopt the plan is lost. Brethren S. B. Garwood, W. A. Sain, John A. Allen, and Geo. E. Merrell were appointed to confer with the other churches on the field in regard to building a pastor's home.

The meeting is protracted through the week, until Friday, Eld. V. M. Swaim, of Winston-Salem, N. C. assisted in the meeting. There were eight members added and baptized during the meeting.

At the November meeting in 1913, the old grave yard committee upon request are excused and Breth. G. A. Sheets, W. A. Sain, and D. M. Bailey are chosen as a committee in their stead.

This new committee was instructed to measure the grave yard and find the cost of inclosing it and report at the next meeting. This committee reported that they have $370.00 in cash and subscriptions towards the work. They were instructed to purchase another acre and proceed to enclose the grave yard with a substantial fence.

The December conference reelected both the present clerk and the Treasurer for 1914. A new Finance committee was also elected. The Baraca class were granted the privilege to build three Sunday School rooms in the rear of the church.

The parsonage committee having failed to accomplish anything were discharged and the conference agrees to pay the pastor $51.00 per year in lieu of a parsonage.

On November 5, 1914, Bro. G. Ambrose Sheets was elected as one of the Trustees of the school property of the church.

At the December conference 1914, Bro. S. B. Garwood was elected Clerk as the former clerk had been dis-

missed by letter. Bro. J. R. Williams was reelected as Treasurer for the year, 1915. Officers for the Sunday School were elected as follows: Bro. J. R. Foster, Superintendent; Bro. S. B. Garwood, Assistant Superintendent; Sister Annie Foster, Secretary; Sister Ruth Foster, Treasurer. Bro. J. M. Davis was elected a Turstee of the school property belonging to the church, as a successor to W. F. Merrell, who has moved from the community.

The following brethren are then chosen as Deacons: Bro. W. A. Sain, in Deacon Merrell's place, and Breth. W. T. Rights, J. B. Bailey, J. P. Burton, Elders J. F. Carter, and A. Gray Carter were invited to assist the pastor in the ordination of these brethren on the 1st Sunday in January 1915.

The above selected presbytery met and ordained Breth W. A. Sain, W. T. Rights, J. B. Bailey, and J. P. Burton as Deacons of Fork Church on the First Sunday in January 1915.

On January 16, 1915, Bro. S. B. Garwood resigned as clerk of the church and the conference elected Bro. F. M. Carter as clerk. The Deacons are requested to act as a Finance committee for the year, and the apportionment remains the same as for last year.

There were no services on Saturday of the February meeting on account of the burial of Mr. J. H. Hanes of Fulton, at whose funeral our pastor assists in the services. Brethren F. M. Carter J. R. Foster, Charlie Foster and W. A. Sain were delegates to the Association which met with Mooresville Baptist Church at the usual time. Fork Church paid here pledges in full, $75.00.

The September conference 1915, instructed the clerk not to issue letter of dismission to members who have not paid the amount apportioned to them, which is a departure from all former custom.

The treasurer reports to the December conference that the church is in debt $311.44.
At this meeting all of the old officers were reelected for 1916.

On January 15, 1916, pastor Hall offers his resignation to take effect the last of March 1916, and the church accepts his resignation. After sermon on Sunday March 19, 1916, conference appointed a committee to invite Elder W. H. Dodd to preach for the church at the next meeting and also to confer with the other churches in the field. With this service Elder S. W. Hall's pastorate closed.

SUMMARY

Elder Hall began as pastor of Fork Church at the April meeting 1912, and served until the close of 1915. During his four years of service a number of objects have been mooted and a great many plans both old and new were tried without success and no great objects have been accomplished. The only exception was the inclosing of the grave yard with a substantial iron fence.

A Baptist Young People's Union was organized July 19, 1913 with Bro. J. R. Foster as leader.

The records show that 20 members were added, 20 dismissed by letter and 9 were excluded during these three years.

CHAPTER XXII

Pastorates of Elders W. H. Dodd and B. C. Ingram

Eld. W. H. Dodd by invitation preaches on Saturday May 8 and 9, 1916. After sermon on Sunday he is extended a unanimous call to preach for the church during the balance of 1916, at a salary of $150.00 per year. He is to be met at the station and carried back free of charge. He accepts the call.

Brethren J. A. Allen, Chas. Foster, J. R. Foster and W. A. Sain are the delegates to the Association this year.

Bro. J. M. Davis resigns as a Trustee of the school property belonging to the church, and W. A. Sain was elected as his successor in office at the August conference, 1916.

On December 9, 1916, the church elects Bro. J. R. Foster superintendent of the Sunday School, Bro. W. A. Sain, assistant superintendent; Bro. S. B. Garwood, Secretary, and Sister Ruth Foster, Treasurer. Eld. Dodd accepts an invitation to preach at the January meeting. Eld. Dodd is not present at the January service. Bro. A. M. Garwood is requested to invite B. C. Ingram of Churchland to preach at the February service.

At a called meeting on January 28, 1917, the Trustees of the church are instructed to give a mortgage on the church to cover the amount due Eld. S. W. Hall. Elder B. C. Ingram was present and preached at the February conference 1917. The church, at the next meeting called Eld. Ingram as pastor at a salary of $150.00 per year and he is present and accepts.

The August meeting was protracted. Eld. C. S. Cashwell aided the pastor in the services. Three were added to the church at the close of the meeting. The following Brethren were sent as delegates to the Association: Charlie Foster, Daniel Foster, C. W. Williams, Report of Fork Church 1917:

Eld. B. C. Ingram was pastor and F. M. Carter, Clerk. During the past year, 3 were baptized, 6 received by letter, 2 restored; total gain, 11; dismissed by letter, 8; excluded, 7; died, 6; loss, 21. Showing a net loss of 10 members.

The Pastors salary was $150.00; Sunday School expenses, $13.45; Poor, $25.00; Minute Funds, $2.00; Associational Missions, $15.00; State Missions, $10.00; Home missions, $5.00; Foreign Missions, $5.00; S. S. Missions, $1.03; Orphanage, $40.65; Education, $2.73; other objects, $165.00; total $434.64.

Sunday School: Superintendent, J. R. Foster; Secretary and Treasurer, S. B. Garwood; 184 scholars; contributions to S. S. expenses $13.45; Missions, $1.03; Orphanage, $35.65; other objects, $25.00.

The clerk announced at the September meeting 1917, that the balance due Eld. S. W. Hall, former pastor, had been paid in full. As the church felt relieved and was in a happy mood. They appointed Bro. F. M. Carter to raise funds and order Hymn Books for use of the church.

At the December conference the following officers were elected for the ensuing year, to wit: Clerk, C. W. Williams; Treasurer, F. M. Carter; Financial Committee, S. B. Garwood, J. R. Foster, A. M. Garwood, Wiley B. Cope, J. P. Burton; Superintendent of the Sunday School, W. A. Sain, Assistant Superintendent, J. R. Foster; Secretary, S. B. Garwood; Treasurer, Ruth Foster.

The Financial Committee was instructed to assist the treasurer in raising sufficient money to pay off the entire indebtedness of the church before January 1, 1918.

CHAPTER XXIII

Pastorates of Elders W. L. Barrs and H. T. Penry

In 1918, Eld. W. L. Barrs was pastor and Bro. J. R. Foster, Clerk. There were four added to the membership of the church and ten lost, leaving a membership of 92 males and 157 females, total membership 240.

The contributions for the year 1918 were: Pastor's salary, $200.00; Incidentals, $25.00; Sunday School expenses, $28.44; Minute Funds, $2.50; Associational Missions, $2.00; State missions, $12.15; Home missions, $14.85; Foreign missions, $18.00; Sunday School missions, $2.00; Orphanage, $36.00; Education, $2.50; Ministerial relief, $3.00; total contributions, $336.44.

Bro. W. A. Sain was Superintendent of Sunday School and Bro. S. B. Garwood was secretary. There were 8 teachers and officers, 150 pupils, total enrollment, 158.

The Association met with Harmony Baptist Church in 1918. Brethren F. M. Carter, Monroe Minor, and C. W. Williams were Fork's representatives.

The Woman's Missionary Society met with Salisbury Baptist Church and Mrs. Mattie Wilson was the delegate from Fork Church.

In 1919 Brethren F. M. Carter, J. R. Foster, C. W. Williams, and E. F. Eaton were the delegates to the South Yadkin Association, which met with Advance Baptist Church that year. Fork sent no delegates to the W.M.U. which met at New Hope Baptist Church in Iredell county, N. C.

During this year the church received 26 by baptism, 4 by letter, 1 restored, total 31; and dismissed by letter, 6; excluded, 2; died, 1; total lost, 9. Membership 96 males, 167 females, total, 263. The amounts contributed were as follows: Pastor's salary, $300; Sunday School expenses, $41.87; Poor, $22.39; Minutes, $5.00; Associa-

tional Missions, $10.00; State Missions, $14.85; Home Missions, $18.15; Foreign Missions, $22.00; Sunday School Missions, $7.00; Orphanage, $179.00; Education, $5.00; Minute Fund, $3.00; other objects, $134.00; total $822.86.

The Sunday School report shows: officers, 10; pupils, 209; total, 219; contributions: Missions, $5.00; Orphanage, $25.00; other objects, $23.66; total $70.53. Bro. W. A. Sain, Superintendent and Ruth Foster, Secretary of the Sunday School.

During Eld. Barrs pastorate there were 35 joined the church and 19 were lost, leaving a membership of 263.

The contributions for the last year of this pastorate, $822.86 were the largest for any single year in the history of the church when not building. This was possibly due to the result of the great World War, as well as to the enthusiasm and energy of the pastor in his ministry.

Elder H. T. Penry began his pastorate of Fork Baptist Church in 1920. At that time there were 263 members enrolled, and brother J. R. Foster was the church clerk. During that year there were 4 baptized and 2 received by letter, total gain, 6. At the same time there was a loss of 3 by letter and 7 by death, total, 10; net loss, 4. The contributions for the year were: Pastor's salary, $300.00; repairs, $8; Sunday School expenses, $51.94; Poor, $12.00; Minute Fund, $5.00; other objects, $133.75;Million campaign, $116.80; Orphanage, $110.75; total, $797.40.

Bro. J. R. Foster was superintendent and Bro. Carey V. Williams secretary of the Sunday School. There were 9 officers and teachers, 197 pupils, total 206. Contributed to orphanage $18.00, other objects, $53.00; Sunday School expenses $51.94, total $129.96.

The Association met with Western Avenue Baptist Church at Statesville, N. C. Brother E. F. Eaton was the delegate from Fork.

In 1921, the Association met with Salisbury First Baptist Church. Brethren N. J. Cope, and F. M. Carter represented Fork Church at this session of the Association.

The total membership is reported as being 255, which is 4 less than reported last year. The total contributions for this year was $748.50.

Bro. J. R. Foster is still superintendent of the Sunday School and Bro. Ernest R. Carter is secretary. Teachers and officers, 10; pupils, 204; total, 214; Sunday School expenses, $75.00.

Brethren Linnett Potts, Monroe Minor, E. F. Eaton, and Sisters Sadie Foster, and Thelma Koontz were Fork's delegates to the Association in 1922. That session met at Eatons Baptist Church.

Fork now has 259 members and contributed to local church expenses $371.71; to 75 million campaign, $48.00; total $419.71. Bro. W. A. Sain is Superintendent of the Sunday School and E. R. Carter, Secretary.

There are 10 officers and teachers, 186 pupils, total, 196. The Sunday School contributed for the year on expenses, $48.00, Missions, $45.00; total $93.00.

Summary

Pastor Penry was a young man full of energy and desire for progress and by strenuous effort was able for two years to maintain the standard set by the former pastor, but during the third year of his work the deflation period that necessarily followed, the World War, set in; and the finances of the church dwindled until he became discouraged and resigned as pastor of the church. Taking it all in all his pastorate was quite a success.

In 1923, Eld. W. L. Barrs is again pastor of Fork Church, Bro. Monroe Minor is clerk and F. M. Carter is Treasurer. There were no additions to the membership during this year. Twelve were dismissed by letter and two died, leaving a total membership of 240. Contribu-

tions for the year were as follows: Pastor's salary, $300.00, other salaries, $52.00; Poor, $15.00; Literature, $75.00; Printing, $5.00; 75 million Campaign, $62.00, Orphanage, $20.00, total $529.00 Sunday School enrollment, 150; contributions, $75.00; Superintendent: Linnett Potts; Secretary and Treasurer, E. R. Carter.

The delegates to the Association, which met at New Hope Baptist Church, were: Breth. E. F. Eaton, Cletis Foster, Linnett Potts, and R. I. Foster.

This pastorate was short and was not so successful as his first was.

CHAPTER XXIV

Elder E. W. Turner's Pastorate

Eld. E. W. Turner became pastor of Fork Baptist Church in 1924. The church then had 240 members and paid a total of $529.00 to all objects during the previous year.

In 1924, the South Yadkin Association met with Cavalry Baptist Church in Rowan County. Breth. E. F. Eaton, Cletis Foster, Linnett Potts, and R. I. Foster were the delegates from Fork. Brother E. S. Millsaps of Statesville was chosen moderator, as former moderator Cashwell declined to serve any longer. Brother W. F. Merrell was reelected clerk for the fourteenth time. Eld. P. A. Hicks, Pastor of Western Avenue Church, Statesville, preached the Introductory sermon text, John 6: 68-69.

Sister Blanche Burton is now clerk of Fork Church, and Bro. J. R. Foster is Treasurer.

Fork reported 235 members, having dimissed 4 by letter and lost one by death.

The church contributed to the following objects during the year: Pastor's salary, $250.00 incidentals, $58.00; Sunday School expenses, $50.00; Minute Fund, $5.00; Poor, $10.00; 75 million $40.61; Orphanage, $20.00; total, $433.61.

The Sunday School enrollment was 157. Bro. J. R. Foster was Superintendent and Bro. Yates Minor was Secretary and Treasurer. The Woman's Missionary Union reported 10 members with Mrs. Blanch Burton, President.

In 1925, the Association met with South River Baptist Church. The delegates from Fork were: Breth. Linnett Potts, Williard Foster, J. R. Foster, and E. W. Turner.

Elder E. W. Turner was pastor; Mrs. Blanche Burton, Clerk; Bro. J. R. Foster, Treasurer; Statistics: Bap-

tized, 36; by letter, 3; restored, 3; total 42; Lost by letter, 3; died, 2; total, 5, net gain, 37. Present membership 272. The contributions for this year were as follows: Pastor's salary $250. Other salaries, $50.00; incidentals, $9.87; Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. expenses, $35.00; Minute Fund, $10.00; Cooperative Program, $75.00; Orphanage, $31.30; Hospitals, $12.00; other objects, $89.00; total $570.17. An increase over that of last year. There were 212 enrolled in the Sunday School and the contributions were $19.00. Bro. Linnett Potts was Superintendent and Bro. Yates Minor was Secretary and Treasurer.

On April 25, 1926, the record book of Fork Baptist Church, covering a period of eight years and three months, from January 1, 1917 to April 24, 1926, was burned with the home of the clerk, Sister Blanche Burton. The items recorded in the preceding pages for this period of time were culled from the minutes of the South Yadkin Baptist Association. There seems to have been no unusual accomplishments by the church during these years. The roll of members was also burned. On June 26, 1926, there were present 107 members whose names were again entered upon the roll of membership. While the report to the Association for the year, 1926, shows that 167 members were voluntarily reenrolled and 19 were received by Baptism during the year, making a total membership of 186.

In 1917 the church held a "Home Coming Day". This gathering was so successful and the spirit of the day was of such a type that on the 2nd Sunday of August of each year, since that time, there has been a large gathering of friends, relatives, and former members of Fork Church coming back home to enjoy the day with the home folk.

The following program for "Home coming Day" is found in the minutes of the August meeting, 1926: Bro. T. I. Caudell, Chairman of the committee, directed the meeting. The welcome address was made by Rev. Cletis Foster; the response, by W. F. Merrell; Sermon, by Rev. J. F. Carter; Dinner—The afternoon was spent in songs

by Mocksville quartette, Fork quartette, and Cooleemee Girls. Many short talks by visitors and home comers. A very large crowd was present.

In 1926, Breth. R. I. Foster, Paul Owens, Monroe Minor, and S. B. Garwood represented Fork in the 53rd Annual session of the South Yadkin Association, which met at Trading Ford Baptist Church, Rowan county, N. C. Dr. G. W. Choate was moderator and Bro. L. White, Clerk. The introductory sermon was preached at 11:15 A.M. by Eld. J. Ben Eller, of First Baptist Church of Statesville. Text, John 14:16 and Acts 1:8.

At this session Fork reported 20 received by baptism, 1 by letter, and lost 4 by death, gained, 272 plus 17, total 186 (289). The amounts contributed to the different objects were as follows: Pastor's salary, $250.00; other salaries, $60.00; Ministers help, $85.53; repairs, $197.03; incidentals, $17.51; Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. expenses, $29.50; Minute Fund, $5.00; other objects, $81.00 total home expense, $725.57; Foreign Missions, $11.00; Home Missions, $50.70; State Missions, $8.06; Orphanage, $25.75; Hospital, $18.68; total $114.19; total to all objects, $839.76. Sunday School report: Officers and Teachers, 19; Primary, 75; Junior, 41; Young People, 41; Adults, 69; total enrollment, 245. Baptized from school, 20; contributions by school, $60.94; B.Y.P.U. 34, W.M.U. 18; Sunbeams, 45; gifts of Woman's Organizations, $51.16. The following members died during the year: Bro. Pinkston Hendrix, and Sisters Amanda Garwood, Mary Hendrix, Elizabeth Peeler. (This is the first time the names of those who died during the year are recorded).

Concrete steps are built to the outside doors during this year and at the December meeting the church votes unanimously to have preaching twice each month, beginning with the January meeting in 1927. The Pastor's salary is raised to $500.00 per year, and a committee was appointed to ascertain what it would cost to insure the church house for the sum of $2,000.00.

The revival meeting is to begin on the 3rd Sunday in September. F. E. Williams, E. F. Eaton, and J. R. Fos-

ter were selected as a committee to have the church house wired for electric lights. The annual home coming was held on Sunday August 14, 1927. President T. I. Caudell was leader again this year. The welcome address was made by W. F. Merrell and was responded to by a number of Home Comers. Rev. A. G. Carter preached the annual sermon. Dinner—The afternoon exercise consisted of short talks by several persons and songs by quartettes and congregation.

The South Yadkin Association met with Fork Baptist Church in 1927. Brethren W. H. Jarvis, W. B. Cope, T. F. Koontz, and J. R. Foster were the delegates chosen to represent the church this year. The letter to the Association: Pastor, Eld. E. W. Turner; Clerk, Sister Blanche Burton; Treasurer, Bro. F. E. Williams; Superintendent of Sunday School, Bro. S. B. Garwood; President of W.M.S., Mrs. Blanche Burton; leader of G.A.'s, Sister Laura Foster; Leader of Sunbeams, Floy Williams; Time of preaching, 1st and 3rd Sundays; Reenrolled, 15; present membership, 201.

There are now 282 enrolled in the Sunday School, which contributed to all objects $167.17. The Societies gave $75.74 to all objects. Pastor's salary, $500.00; repairs, $20.60; incidentals, $68.01; Minutes, $5.00; other objects, $73.56; total, $667.17; Benevolences, $278.08; grand total, $945.25. The greatest amount ever raised in a year when not building.

Eld. J. F. Carter aided pastor Turner in the Revival meeting closing on September 25, as a result of the meeting 24 members were added to the church.

At the November conference in 1927, Breth. W. H. Jarvis, Yates Minor, Willard Foster, and S. B. Garwood were selected as Deacons and Elders W. B. Waff and J. L. Kirk of Mocksville are requested to aid Pastor Turner in ordaining these brethren to the deaconship on 3rd Sunday in January 1928 at 2:30 P.M.

At the February meeting, 1928, brethren Paul Hendrix, Robert Lee Seaford, Thomas Hendrix, and

Gray Sheets were appointed an attendance committee and the deacons were appointed as the Spiritual Committee.

The 1928 Revival meeting was to begin on the 3rd Sunday in August. Rev. J. F. Carter was to aid the Pastor in the service. Pastor Turner was excused from service on the 1st Sunday in August. No record of result of the above meeting or the ordination of the Deacons.

At the September conference, 1928, Breth. Robert Lee Seaford, J. R. Foster, J. B. Bailey, and G. A. Sheets were appointed as delegates to represent Fork Church in the next session of the South Yadkin Association, which meets with Society Baptist Church in Iredell County. There is no record of the report for 1928.

Beginning on October 7, 1928, there was a Sunday School Institute begun, which continued through the week. The aim of the meeting was to raise the Sunday School to that of a Standard one and to grade the classes, which was accomplished.

Eld. M. L. Barnes of Cooleemee filled the pastors appointment on Saturday November 17, 1928.

At December conference, Bro. S. B. Garwood was elected Superintendent of Sunday School, with Sister E. F. Eaton, Gray Sheets and Lester Foster as assistants; W. H. Jarvis, Secretary and Treasurer.

The church also elected Breth. J. C. Barnhardt and G. A. Sheets as trustees of the church property. Treasurer Williams reported a debt of $65.00 at end of year.

On January 6, the church reelects Bro. Robert Lee Seaford church clerk and Bro. F. E. Williams, Treasurer for 1929. On February 16 a committee was appointed to ask County Commissioners to have the road east of the church moved. At the March conference the Treasurer reported $205.85 collected during the 1st quarter and $97.05 paid out, leaving a balance of $7.77 in the Treasury.

The June conference decided to build some Sunday School rooms and appointed Breth. Charles Foster, J. C. Barnhardt, Gray Sheets, and George W. Minor as a building committee; and Sisters Annie Dwire, Ella Sheets, Annie Livengood, Bessie Barnhardt, Laura Foster and Notie Williams as a committee to raise funds to pay for the building of the rooms.

The protracted meeting was held, beginning on July 20, and was continued through the week. Eld. M. L. Barnes of Cooleemee aided the Pastor. Twenty-four persons were added to the church, as a result of the meeting.

Treasurer Williams reported $130.53 collected and paid during the past quarter.

At the August conference Brethren D. S. Carter, Lester Foster, S. B. Garwood, and J. R. Foster were appointed delegates to the 1929 session of the Association to be held with Western Avenue Baptist Church at Statesville, N. C.

At this conference a committee was appointed to secure some one to write a History of the Church and the name of Wilson F. Merrell was suggested to the committee.

On September 1st, the committee reported that they had seen Bro. Merrell and that he had consented to write the History as soon as he could find time to do the work.

At the September meeting the committee appointed to raise money to pay for Sunday School rooms report as follows: Subscribed, $223.00; paid in $180.00; two trees and 21½ days work promised.

Treasurer reports $243.00 collected and all paid out, leaving the church in debt at beginning of October. The same officers of the Sunday School were reelected.

On November 17, the committee on moving the road east of the church reported that the Commissioners promised the tractor and road machines, provided the church would furnish the labor.

The brethren were requested to meet and furnish the labor during the next week, under the supervision of Bro. L. P. Seaford. The work was done and the road moved.

The December conference reelects the present church officers. The treasurer's report showed a debt of $50.00 on Pastor's salary. As the pastor had tendered his resignation the Conference raised the amount due and reelected Eld. Turner as pastor, at a salary of $750.00.

The total membership enrolled to date, 284; less 14 deaths, 11 dismissed by letter and 5 were excluded, leaving the present membership of 254.

Summary

Elder E. W. Turner became pastor of Fork Baptist Church at the beginning of 1924, and is still pastor at the close of 1929, at which time this Historical sketch closes. During these six years there has been added to the church by baptism, 117; restored, 28; received by letter, 8; total, 150. During the same period the church lost by letter, 15; excluded, 6; died, 8; total lost, 29; net gain 121.

The contributions of the church have increased from $433.60 to $904.00. The church now has four sermons each month instead of two. The pastor preaching on 1st Sunday in each month at 11:30 A.M. and at night, and on the 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M. and at 3:00 P. M. on Saturday before.

Fork Church now has 14 tithers.

Summaries

Benjamin Buckner—Pastor

Elder Benjamin Buckner became pastor of Fork Baptist Church at the time it was constituted, between May 4 and August 24, 1793.

He served as pastor until 1815 at which time he left the State and moved to Georgia. He spent 22 years of his

life trying to establish well the work at Fork Meeting House. Elder Buckner was a fleshy man and dressed in the style of the Revolutionary Gentleman, wearing knee pants and buckles. He was a tailor by trade and many apprentices learned the art from him. He lived about one-half mile South of the church and left the community loved and respected by all of the citizens.

Joseph Pickler—Pastor

Elder Pickler served Fork as pastor from September 1815 to May 24, 1840. During these 25 years of faithful service he was seldom absent from his appointments and there was slow but continuous growth in the work of the church.

He was pastor of Fork church at the time of the split over Missions. He attended the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in 1832 to satisfy his own mind on the question. When he returned he threw his whole soul into the advocacy of missions and preached with unwonted liberty, which culminated in the exclusion of about one-third of the members for disorderly conduct and the loss of the churches records for the first forty years of her life.

The former clerk, being one of the excluded members, carried the record away and declared that they should never see them again. The church reported these matters to the Yadkin Association when the body met in 1833, and were counseled, that if they failed to secure the former records to purchase a new book and enroll the remaining members thereon. They waited until their June meeting 1834. They then adopted a covenant and enrolled the names of 6 males and 29 females, total 35.

The outstanding events of this pastorate was the establishing of an arm at Piney Meeting House in 1835 and the constitution of a church there in 1837.

Legend: Eld. Pickler was a typical Dutchman, low and corpulent, and of a dark complexion. Like many of his day, he was not a total abstainer from strong drink, but with exception, he was universally respected.

Barton Roby—Pastor

Eld. Roby served Fork as pastor from October 1840 until February 1841. During these five months, one member was received and two dismissed by letter. Total memberhip, 42.

W. H. Hammer—Pastor

Elder Hammer served as pastor of Fork from March 1841 to December 1843. The church now has 43 members.

The main events of his pastorate were his ordination to the full work of a gospel minister and the selection and ordination of Wm. Gabard as a Deacon.

Wm. Turner—Pastor

Elder Wm. Turner served Fork Church as pastor from May 1845 to the end of April 1848. The church prospered during this time. Bro. C. W. Bessent was licensed to preach at the May conference 1847, and Bro. Samuel O. Tatum was ordained as a Deacon at the August meeting of the same year. Fifty-three members were added to the church and five were lost. Total membership, ninety-one. The first record of a camp meeting held here was during his pastorate in October, 1846.

Thomas Miller—Pastor

Elder Thomas Miller was called as pastor of Fork Church at the October meeting in 1849 and served for one year. While he was pastor the following ministers filled appointments for him: Elders J. Roberson, Amos Weaver, and J. Pritchard. Bro. Conrad Hendrix was ordained as a Deacon on Friday August 24, 1849. The church voted to establish a graveyard at the October meeting. The second Saturday in December, 1849 was observed as a day of Fasting and Prayer and an appropriate address was made by Pastor Miller. A collection was taken for the objects of the N.C.B. State Convention and Bro. C. W. Bessent is sent as the first delegate from Fork to the Convention. Eight members are received and two are lost, total membership, 97.

Richard Jacks—Pastor

Elder Richard Jacks was pastor from January 1851 to the time he resigned at October 1852. At the beginning Eld. Jacks pastorate the church adopted a by law requiring members to render excuse for absences from church conference. This was the first recorded step taken to prevent covenant breaking.

At the August conference in 1851, a committee, previously appointed to examine the church record, report that they have not been able to find any record of the Constitution of the church, or articles of faith and but a defective covenant. At their camp meeting on August 23, 1857, the committee appointed to prepare Articles of Faith and Church Covenant, as published in the "Biblical Recorder" in July 1851, which were unanimously adopted by the conference. Thereupon; the conference requested the ministers present at the camp meeting to constitute them a Missionary Baptist Church. Constitution: We, the undersigned presbytery, after mature examination of the church at Fork Meeting House, constitute them a Missionary Baptist Church, upon the following Articles of Faith and Covenant: August 23, 1851.

Eld. R. Jacks

Eld. Thomas Miller

Eld. J. B. Soloman

This act of constitution with the Articles of Faith and Covenant are recorded in the first part of the church record book, #1.

Brother C. W. Bessent was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry on the second Saturday in April, 1852, by Elders R. Jacks, Thomas Miller, and Azariah Williams, acting as a presbytery. Twenty-eight were added to the membership and five were lost, leaving a membership of 120.

Bro. S. A. Daniel was licensed to preach on September 23, 1852.

C. W. Bessent—Pastor

Elder Bessent began his work as pastor of Fork Church at the September meeting in 1853 and served for thirteen years. At the January meeting in 1854, J. H. Davis was licensed to preach the gospel; B. S. Merrell was ordained as a Deacon at the February Meeting in 1855; an arm was established at Turrentine in April and discontinued in September of this year. At the July conference in 1857, the annual Camp Meeting was discontinued. The church set off an arm at Pleasant Grove School House at their August meeting, 1857. The church decided at their July meeting 1859, to build a new church house and pastor Bessent was instructed to spend five days in raising subscriptions for the building. At the next conference, he reported $722.00 subscribed. The church selected Eld. C. W. Bessent, B. S. Merrell, and William Wyatt as the building committee.

At the January conference, 1859, the pastor's salary was fixed at $100.00 and $10.00 was pledged to the objects of the Convention and Bro. John J. Pack was appointed to represent the church in the Convention. In 1859 the graveyard was enlarged by the gift of one acre of land by Dr. Milton Hobbs and Bro B. S. Merrell, the committee to secure the same, presented the deed to the trustees and the conference gave Dr. Hobbs a hearty vote of thanks for the gift. Brethren Shelby Parker and John F. Redwine were both licensed to preach at the July meeting in 1860.

The church then fixes pastor's salary at $75.00 for serving the church and the arm at Pleasant Grove; but as the pastor declines to serve upon these terms, the conference separates the work and the pastor serves the church alone for this amount. The next year he is promised $100.00.

At the May conference in 1862, the building committee reports their work completed and the church extends them a vote of thanks for their services. There is no record of what the house cost or who were the contributors, but it is known that the material was all fur-

nished by the contributors and that Foster brothers did the building.

From the specifications found among the old records, the building was 40'x60' and 16' between the sills and plates, the length extending east and west, with doors at west end. The building was a credit to the Community and pleased the church.

In 1864 the Yadkin Association met with this church and Breth. C. W. Bessent, B. S. Merrell, E. W. Tatum, and S. A. Daniel were the delegates from Fork. Bro. S. A. Daniel was examined and ordained to the full work of a minister on Sabbath during this session, by Elders Wm. Turner, and C. W. Bessent, acting as a presbytery. At the February meeting in 1864, five members were dismissed by letter to join in the organizing of a Baptist church at Mocksville. At the September meeting in 1866, Eld. Bessent declines to serve the church any longer and the conference calls Eld. John H. Cornish as pastor and he accepts.

While Elder Bessent was pastor there were 166 members joined the church and 51 were lost, leaving a net gain of 115 members. The Civil War covered four years of this pastorate and most of the male members were in the army of the Confederate States of America. Elders Elias Dodson, John Snider, and B. Carter visited the Church and preached during Bessent's pastorate.

John W. Cornish—Pastor

Elder Cornish began his work as pastor at the October meeting in 1866.

In June 1867 an arm of the church was established at Woodruffs School House, but was called in in September and the members there were granted letters to join the church at Mocksville, N. C. While Elder Cornish was pastor, there were 11 members added and ten were lost. His work was not a very successful pastorate.

John F. Redwine—Supply and Pastor

Licentiate Redwine began his services as supply at the February meeting 1868. At this meeting the mem-

bers who lived near Jerusalem petitioned for a presbytery to constitute them into a Missionary Baptist Church at or near Jerusalem. The petition was granted and Elders John H. Cornish, Wm. Turner and C. W. Bessent were appointed as a presbytery to render the service requested on the 5th Sabbath in March 1869.

At the March meeting of this year Fork organized her first Sunday School by electing B. S. Merrell Superintendent; A. H. Stewart, Secretary; and Wm. Foster, Chorister.

Brother Redwine was examined and ordained to the full work of the ministry by Elders C. W. Bessent, and S. A. Daniel, on Sunday of the June meeting in 1869.

During his pastorate 22 members were added and 8 lost, a net gain of 14 members.

His pastorate closed upon the call of Wm. Turner to become pastor at the October conference in 1869.

Wm. Turner—Pastor

Elder Wm. Turner began his second pastorate of Fork Baptist Church in January 1870, at a time when the South was just beginning to overcome the effects of the late Civil War, when the church was but little able to increase her benevolences and to offer a pastor a living support. He was to receive a salary of $150.00, the largest salary the church had ever promised to pay a pastor. The church at once began to increase her contributions to missions and to enlarge the work of the church in general. This required the introduction of new plans and methods of procedure. Most of these proved to be successful and resulted in the raising of pastor's salary to $200.00 and increasing the benevolences of the church more than tenfold.

During his pastorate 216 were received into the fellowship of the church, and 91 were lost by letter or exclusion. The church reported 226 members to the Association in 1884.

Although pastor Turner lived at Salem, 24 miles distant from the church, he was seldom absent from the monthly meetings unless previously excused. While his pastorate closed at the December meeting 1884, he, by invitation of the committee selected to find some one to fill the next appointment, was present at the January meeting. There was no services on Saturday on account of rain and snow. On Sunday at 11:00 o'clock pastor Turner preached his last sermon at this place. After having faithfully served Fork Baptist Church as pastor for fifteen years in succession.

Possibly the outstanding events during his pastorate were the organization of the South Yadkin Baptist Association in November 1873, and the establishing the Academic School in the Community, which has yielded an abundant harvest of intelligence during all the succeeding years.

C. E. Gower—Pastor

Elder Gower began his pastorate at the March meeting 1885 and continued until close of the year 1887. During his three years of service 48 persons joined the church and 20 lost, leaving a net gain of 28.

The outstanding event of this pastorate was the formation of a field, composed of Fork, Jerusalem, and Mocksville, and the settling of pastor Gower in the county. His was a successful term.

J. N. Stallings—Pastor

Dr. Stallings began his pastorate on January 21, 1888 and preached his last sermon here on December 28, 1890. While he was pastor the church exercised discreet discipline, which resulted in a loss of 23 members by exexclusion and 8 by letter. Thirty-three were received as members. A net gain of one.

J. B. Newton—Pastor

On January 1, 1892 Elder Newton began his services as pastor of Fork Baptist Church. He was ordained

to the full work of the gospel ministry on the second Sabbath in February of this year, by the following presbytery: Revs. Thomas Carrick of Lexington, N. C., J. D. Newton, of Thomasville and J. F. Redwine of this church. During his years work there were 36 members added to the church and he labored strenously to mend the finances of the church with much success.

S. F. Conrad—Pastor

Elder Conrad began his work as pastor in January 1893 and continued to October meeting in 1896. Sixty-one members joined and forty-eight lost. There has been more cases of discipline than usual but it has tended to free the church of worthless material and prepare her for a larger and more aggressive work in the future.

The main incidents during this pastorate were (1) the 100th anniversary of the organization of Fork Baptist Church on July 1893; (2) the Ordination of Bro. B. K. Mason to the full work of the gospel by Elders S. F. Conrad, J. B. Newton, and John F. Redwine as a presbytery.

S. J. Beeker—Pastor

Elder Beeker began his pastorate at the December meeting in 1896 and resigned at December meeting in 1898. During this pastorate 26 were received as members and 29 lost. Present membership is 240.

J. M. Bennett—Pastor

Elder J. M. Bennett began his pastorate of Fork Baptist Church at the April meeting in 1899, and continued to serve the church until the close of the year 1900. After serving the church for nearly two years he left beloved by all for his faithful efforts to free the church of debt and of worthless members. During his pastorate 19 persons were received into the fellowship of the church, twelve were dismissed by letter and eighteen were excluded, and the church was out of debt for the first time since the civil war.

Chas. H. Utley—Pastor

Elder Chas. H. Utley began as pastor of Fork Church at the April meeting in 1901 and served until the end of 1903. During this time he demonstrated very fine ability both as a preacher and as pastor; leaving the church in excellent shape both spiritually and financially. Fifty members were added while he was pastor and 28 were lost. Present membership is 229.

R. D. Haymore—Pastor

Elder R. D. Haymore was a very accepted preacher but soon failed to fill his appointment and Elder O. J. Martin was secured as supply until pastor E. L. Weston finished at the seminary in June 1905. Elder S. D. Swain held a meeting in November at which time seven were baptized. During this supply period 12 joined the church and 14 were dismissed by letter and 2 were excluded.

E. L. Weston—Pastor

Elder Weston began on Sunday of the June meeting 1905 and served the church until the end of 1907. His pastorate was a pleasant and profitable one.

By his diligent services and leadership the church has an excellent new house, size 40′x60′ with an anteroom in front 14′x14′ with a tower over it 70′ high. There are two Sunday School rooms at the back of the church 18′x16′ with a gothic alcove between the doors to these rooms for the pulpit. The church owes Brethren Foster and Garwood a debt of only $150.00 on this magnificient structure.

Elder Weston, as collector and Treasurer of the Building Committee, collected and expended $735.65 plus the $150.00 still due makes the house cost $885.65 in cash addition to all of the material and labor contributed by friends and members of the church.

W. H. Dodd—Pastor

Elder Dodd served the church from May 9, 1916 to close of the year. There was no special progress made during this time recorded.

B. C. Ingram—Pastor

Elder B. C. Ingram began as pastor at the February meeting in 1917, and served until September, at which time he resigned to enter our Seminary at Louisville, Ky. During this pastorate 11 members were added and 8 were dismissed by letter, 7 excluded, and 6 died. Total loss, 21; net loss in membership, 10; total membership 247.

W. L. Barrs—Pastor

During Elder Barrs pastorate there were 35 members received and 19 were lost. Total membership, 263. The contributions for 1919 ($822.86) were the largest for any single year in the history of the church when not building. This was possibly due to the results of the great World War, as well as to the energy and enthusiasm of the pastor in his ministry.

H. T. Penry—Pastor

Elder Penry served the church during 1920, 1921, and 1922. He was a young man full of energy and had a burning desire for progress and by strenuous effort was able for two years to maintain the standard set by the former pastor, but during the third year of his work the deflation period that necessarily followed the "World War" set in and the finances of the church dwindled until he became discouraged and resigned as pastor of the church. During these three years 20 were added to the church and 13 were lost, leaving the total membership 259.

W. L. Barrs—Pastor

Elder Barrs was pastor again in 1923 but did not serve the entire year. This pastorate was not so successful as his first. During this pastorate 12 were dismissed by letter and 2 died, leaving a total membership of 240. Total contributions were $529.00.